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OBSERVATIONS ON THE EFFECTS OF DR. FOWLER'S MINERAL SOLUTION IN LEPRA AND OTHER DISEASES; *communicated in a Letter to a Physician in London, by* THOMAS GIRDLESTONE, M. D. *Physician at Yarmouth.*

SIR,

ALTHOUGH I had frequently used, with success, the arseniate of pot-ash in mesenteric and many other scrofulous affections, yet your old acquaintance Mr. B. was the first patient on whom I tried the effects of this medicine in lepra. You remember that he had laboured for fourteen years under that disease, tried repeated salivations, many physicians, and every quack medicine, without any effect, and was at last cured by small and repeated doses of the arseniate of potash. It is now several years since his cure was completed, and my experiments and success have extended to some hundreds of cases of lepra, lichen, prurigo, psoriasis, tinea capitis, &c. &c.

My sesond case of lepra proved very instructive to me. The patient had tried different physicians and quack medicines, with but little palliation of symptoms. After three doses of eight drops, in the twenty-four hours, a lobster redness came over the whole skin, and his face exhibited the commencement of an erysipelatous inflammation. I desired him to take some senna tea to relieve his bowels, and to wait till this redness should subside, and to begin with the solution in doses of half the number of drops. In about two days he was able to resume his medicine, and under the diminished doses, his disease gradually disappeared.

The termination of my third case proved equally instructive; for, on the disappearance of the lepra, there came upon the nates large biles, which gradually dried up, and went away.

I afterwards found that the declination of cutaneous diseases, from this medicine, was marked sometimes by an increase of the eruption, sometimes by large biles, or fissures, about the feet, toes, hands or fingers. One patient, who had laboured for two years under a large patch of the lepra nigricans on his cheek, which had resisted the efforts of different practitioners, was ordered by me four drops of the solutio mineralis twice a day. But the first dose produced the lobster redness of the skin, a distention of the abdomen, and slight sickness. He was relieved by a grain of calomel, and his lepra was afterwards cured by two drops of the solution, taken twice a day for six weeks. On a slight return of the disease, he resumed the medicine in a dose of four drops, which produced the same unpleasant effects as when he tried it before in that dose; but he succeeded in his cure by the use of two drops twice a day, without any inconveniency.

The largest doses which I ever gave of this medicine were twelve drops three times in a day; but I afterwards found that half that dose would equally soon succeed in most cases. The insipidity of the solution, by itself, having tempted some to proceed beyond the doses which I had directed, I soon found it necessary to combine this medicine with an equal portion of tincture of cascarilla, gentian, or cinnamon, and to caution, in the most particular manner, the patient from increasing the drops beyond a certain number. For though I have sometimes succeeded, in a few days, in lessening the severity of cutaneous diseases, yet my experience has taught me not to look for a cure with any dose in less than six or seven weeks. A gentleman, in a distant county, was given by a surgeon twenty drops of the solutio mineralis three times a day, for more than three months, before his lepra was taken away. The doses appear to me to have been far too large, as it had established a weakness on his bowels, and did not take away his lepra so soon, by four or five weeks, as the smaller doses of this medicine generally do. This gentleman was afterwards troubled with nervous symptoms and giddiness of the head, which had resisted the efforts of two physicians in the country, and four in London, before he become my patient. Small doses of calomel and opium, and of ferrum ammoniacum, varied according to symptoms, and persisted in for some weeks, took away the diarrhœa, giddiness, and nervous feelings, and re-established his health.

I have

I have stated the worst symptoms which have arisen from this medicine, under my own directions; but that sickness, pain of the abdomen, nasal hæmorrhage, cough, icteric symptoms, and dropsy, may be induced by it, I have too many opportunities of observing from the solution unfortunately having become a very common medicine with unprofessional people, in curing the intermitents of children.

I saw one child who lost his nails, hair, and part of his skin from this solution, which a lady had given him in improper doses.

From all that I have observed of the abuse of the arsenical solution, I am inclined to attribute the cough, when it arises, to the effects of this medicine on the liver. Too large doses of it generally gives an icteric colour to the urine; and calomel, with or without opium, I have found the best antidote.

In those unfortunate venereal cases, where mercury at first relieves, and very soon after aggravates the ulcerations, I have seen the arsenical solution, with small doses of opium, prevent the extension of the ulcers, where the nitric acid, muriate of lime, sarsaparilla, and other boasted remedies had no power. Under the observation of a cautious practitioner, mercury and arsenic may be made alternately* to assist each other in the cure of many diseases. So far from arsenic inducing consumption, when administered in proper doses, I can produce the evidence of the remains of a consumptive family, who owe their existence, for these last seven or eight years, to the arsenic, which Dr. Beddoes gave them. One of the sisters had died in this county, and the other at Bristol; and the rest were labouring under the same sort of mesenteric affections, as preceded the symptoms of phthisis pulmonalis of those who died, when Dr. Beddoes *gave* the arsenical solution, and restored them to health.

Though I have generally succeeded in curing many cutaneous diseases, and most cases of lepra, yet in some the disease has returned. It has, however, generally returned in a slighter degree, and yielded to a similar course of treatment. I have invariably found the truth of Dr.

 Falconer's

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* By *alternately*, in the above sentence, I mean, not that each medicine should be given by turns, through the same days; but that when one medicine has been tried for some days or weeks, the other may be substituted, and persisted in, till the first may again become necessary.

Falconer's remark, that the lepra is first brought on by the sudden application of cold to the body when it is in a heated state. And to the same cause, I believe, may be traced many of the relapses. The cautions which I think necessary in the administration of the arseniate of potash are these.

To begin with it always in the smallest doses, and never to increase the dose beyond five or six drops three times a day; and to persist only in such doses as can be taken without any inconveniency. In children, the dose should only be from one to two, three, or four drops, once or twice in a day.

The safest method of giving this medicine is in drops; and in order to prevent it from becoming a common, and consequently a disgraced medicine, it is necessary to combine it with an equal portion of some harmless tincture, as of cascarilla, gentian, or cinnamon, &c. and the drops may be ordered to be taken in a decoction of sarsaparilla or mixture with tincture of cardamoms, or any other spicy tincture.

In cutaneous diseases some patients are too costive, and some are too much inclined to purge. The arsenical solution alone is sometimes sufficient to regulate the bowels; where that is not the case some addition may be necessary. To the costive, calomel may become necessary. To those whose bowels are too much relaxed, the fourth of a grain of opium, or less, given once, twice, or thrice in a day, may assist the solution.

Where the itching of the skin is so very troublesome, hydrarg. muriat. dissolved in aqua rosæ, or aqua calcis, will often afford relief. And in the prurigo senilis, or herpes senilis, the washing the skin every night and morning with warm water, and the strict attention to an anti-dyspeptic diet greatly assist the medicine.

I have for some time used the solutio mineralis in cases of tape-worm. That this medicine, with the use of purgatives, brings away larger portions than any purgative medicine does without it, my present experience leads me to believe. And I have found the solutio mineralis a most powerful destroyer of the ascaris lumbricoides. It requires so many months to be satisfied that the tape-worm is killed, that a longer time must pass away before I am able fully to appreciate the powers of arsenic over this disease. But as the tænia osculis marginalibus appears to be an indigenous disease, in and about Yarmouth, I have a good opportunity of extending my experiments. My servants

servants once found this worm in a rabbit, and once in an eel; in dogs it is very common. We have lakes about Yarmouth, but I find as many of the inhabitants who use pump water, as those who use the water of the open wells, labour under this disease.

I am, &c.

Yarmouth, Feb. 20, 1806. THOMAS GIRDLESTONE.

On the Comparative Merits of Cow-Pock and Small-Pox Inoculation; *by* C. B. Trye, *Surgeon to the Infirmary at Gloucester.*

I HAVE lately read some extraordinary publications, written by Messrs. Rowley and others, hostile to vaccination; extraordinary indeed, for the present day, in point of composition, reasoning, and narrative.

I do not think that they will influence any mind, which is in the habit of scrutinizing evidence, argument, or authorities; but as multitudes (and amongst them many worthy and estimable individuals) are not in that habit, at least in respect to medical subjects; I request you, for their sakes, to print the following remarks, which, brief as they are, I verily believe, contain an antidote equal to the poison which these papers may infuse.

First of all, they bring forward a number of cases, some of them probably true, in which vaccination, apparently well conducted, has failed to be a security against the small-pox. I have given some instances already*, and I could give a great number of others, in which inoculation with small-pox matter has been equally insecure.—Be it remarked then, first, that it does not appear that any *universally certain, absolute,* and *indefeasible* preservative against the small-pox has ever yet been obtained. At the same time it *does* appear, that so *near* an approach to that *universality* has been obtained, that any individual may be as fully assured, *for ever,* against the small-pox, as he can at any time be assured of his life for a single day.

Secondly; there are two ways of obtaining this assurance against small-pox; by inoculation, and by vaccination.

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* See Medical Journal, Vol. xii. p. 396.

That the latter is at least equally efficacious with (probably more than*) the former, the experience of this country bears a *general* testimony; and the experience of every other portion of the civilized earth bears an *universal* testimony.

Thirdly; as to the *comparative safety* of the two expedients; in this county, within the last seven years, to my knowledge, great numbers have been vaccinated, and I know that *not one of those has died*, or been in the *least danger* of dying *from vaccination.*

Within the preceding seven years, great numbers, in this same county, have been inoculated with small-pox. Of these, *I know* that some have died, and many more been in imminent danger of dying *from inoculation.* My understanding, then, cannot hesitate in pronouncing vaccination, or artificial cow-pox infection, infinitely the *safer* expedient.

Fourthly; as these gentlemen dwell upon the dreadful effects of vaccination, let us consider the consequences of the two diseases—cow-pox and small-pox.

The consequences are to be divided into two sorts; the *certain* and *immediate*, and the *doubtful* and *remote*. Let it be observed, that the disease produced by small-pox inoculation, in no essential whatsoever, differs from that which is taken, as it is called, *naturally*; and that the cow-pox, by vaccination, is precisely the same as the cow-pox caught *accidentally*, as in the dairies. The *certain* and *immediate consequences* of small-pox, when the disease has been very severe, (I speak as an eye-witness) have been incurable blindness, from pustules being formed in the eyes themselves, mortifications on the back and on the nates, extensive abscesses and ulcers, general and lasting debility, and what is no slight evil, the *change of beauty for deformity.* Now the disease, in its utmost malignity, is occasionally the sequel of inoculation, as well as of the natural infection. But among great numbers who have been vaccinated, within the reach of my observation, not the most trifling inconvenience has once occurred *immediately*, and *certainly* consequent on vaccination.

As *remote and doubtful ill consequences* of small-pox, whether inoculated or natural, I have witnessed scrophula, enlarging and ulcerating the glands, and producing white swellings, obstinate ophthalmias, with entire loss of the eye-lashes, varieties of herpes, &c. Among those who have

* See Mr. Child's experiment in the postscript.

have been vaccinated, I have seen none of these ill consequences (nor, indeed, any others), excepting herpes, which were imputed, or imputable to vaccination. But after all, it is extremely questionable (and therefore I have made use of the term doubtful), if the evils which I have noticed as the remote consequences of small-pox, were properly the offspring of small-pox. It is rather to be conceived that the disposition producing them pre-existed in the habit, and that small-pox acted no further, than merely exciting (as any other powerful agent would have done) that disposition; and in *like manner* we must speak of any diseases which we may see spring up apparently from the effect of vaccination, if, contrary to the experience of this neighbourhood, such should spring up. But I do not believe, that any of those distressing complaints, which I have mentioned, as the remote or doubtful cosequences of small-pox, will be found to be in like manner the consequences of vaccination, because of the inference which necessarily flows from the following certain facts.

The first I shall insist upon is, that a more healthy description of human beings does not exist, nor one more free from chronic cutaneous impurities, than that which suffers most from cow-pox by reason of their being employed in dairies.

The second, that the Gloucester Infirmary, one of the largest provincial hospitals, is situated in a county in which accidental cow-pox has been prevalent from time immemorial: many hundreds, among the labouring people, have had that cow-pox since the establishment of this institution, and *that, more severely than is generally the case in artificial vaccination*; and yet *not a single patient, in half a century, has applied to the infirmary for the relief of any disease, local or constitutional, which he or she imputed, or pretended to trace to cow-pox.* And be it repeated and remembered, that the *artificial* in no respect differs from the *accidental* cow-pox, except in being generally less virulent. The consequences, therefore, whether immediate or remote, cannot differ, the cause, and the circumstances in which that cause acts, being the same.

As for what these writers say about one horrible consequence, to wit, the transformation of the human countenance into that of an ox; I will not insult the understandings of your readers, by endeavouring to expose the absurdity of this matter now, or to remove apprehensions of the like in future.

One word more, on the *peculiar conveniency* of vaccination.

tion. Admitting that societies of persons, who have never had small-pox, may contain individuals, of whom fears may be entertained, as to the consequences of vaccination; and whom, notwithstanding, it may be inconvenient to divide from their associates, still the vaccination of the others may go on, without risque of these exceptionable subjects catching the disease. Moreover, among those, to whom labour and intercourse with the world are necessary, both may be continued without injury, either to themselves or others, during vaccination; which cannot be said of, *nor ought to be permitted in,* small-pox.

I conclude with earnestly pressing these reflections (especially what I have said upon the infirmary) on those minds, which have been, by any means, rendered fearful of, or prejudiced against, the cow-pox; humbly hoping, that they may be instrumental in disposing them to co-operate with the greatest and wisest of our countrymen, and with every government in Europe, in rooting out the small-pox; a work, which will, in all human probability, be shortly accomplished, if the practice of vaccination be not obstructed.

Gloucester, Feb. 16, 1806.

P. S. The respectability of Mr. Birch's professional situation, induces me to treat his queries * with particular attention. To the second query, "Does the puncture of small-pox inoculation ever produce such inflammation of the arm as to kill the patient?" The answer must be in the affirmative, as will appear from the following extract of a letter from Mr. Williams, late a very respectable and experienced surgeon in Dursley, now retired from business, and therefore a most disinterested evidence.

"Mr. ——— underwent inoculation for the small-pox. The arm went on very well till the sickening fever came on, when it became inflamed, tumefied, and very painful. A sphacelus succeeded, which terminated speedily in death."

A similar inference may be drawn from Dr. Rowley's Answer to the Committee of the House of Commons. See Report of the Committee.

To the paragraph which follows the queries in Mr. Birch's letter, all I have to say is, I sincerely lament that a per-

* See Mr. Birch's letter to Mr. Rogers.

a person placed in the honorable station which Mr. Birch has filled during so many years, could prevail upon himself to write it; and this whether we consider either its liberality or its good sense.

The gentleman above noticed, Mr. Williams, communicated also in writing the following case.

"A man had three children successfully inoculated with variolous matter. On their recovery he came to me, complaining of head-ach, vertigo, nausea, sickness, violent pain in the small of his back, and wandering pains all over him, attended with considerable fever. He observed, that *if he had not had the small-pox,* he should think he was going to sicken for it. I replied, that his face (which was pitted to a very great degree) was a perfect security against such an apprehension. On which he said, that he had the small-pox very badly twenty years ago, when he was about sixteen.—The next day a number of little red spots appeared on the skin, which increased daily till they came to a certain size, and then suppurated to the very basis; in which state the patient was seen by the late Dr. Hardwick of Sodbury, who observed, that at this rate, if people were to have the small-pox twice, there might as well be an end of inoculation.

Mr. Child, surgeon, of Northleach, made the following clear and decisive experiment. A woman had a large burden of small-pox; she had an infant who lay with her, about two years old. Mr. Child inoculated one arm of the infant with small-pox taken from its mother, the other arm with cow-pox immediateley afterwards.

The small-pox arm inflamed in the usual manner, and on the fifth day, the inflammation was advanced as far, as it usually is at that period, and had the customary appearance; from that time it began to decline, and died away altogether on the seventh day, nor had the child any subsequent variolous symptom. The vaccinated arm went completely through its usual stages.

A most terrifying account having been giving of mortifications seizing upon the extremities, in consequence of vaccination; *without altogether denying the veracity of the narration,* perhaps, what follows may quiet the alarms, which such narration may have excited.

Children, of peculiar constitutions, are remarkably subject to chilblains, and will be seized with them, even in warm weather. Among the poorer classes, it is not uncommon for this species of inflammation to run into gangrene, or int› phagedenic ulcer, which I have repeatedly seen

seen destroy one toe after another; and the ravages of which, were only to be stopped by the greatest care, and the most generous diet. In bulky children, whose complexions were uncommonly pale, I have twice seen a small discoloration in the cheek degenerate into gangrene, which, neither medicine, nor any other means, were able *to repress*, and which, in a few days, destroyed the patient. The following case will farther illustrate the above observation.

The 2d of December last, I vaccinated a reputable tradesman's child, about a year old; it was very fat, but of that uncommon pallid complexion that I hesitated, and was only persuaded to inoculate it from the circumstance of the small-pox being at the next door. The progress of the infection was much as usual, except that the areola was less florid. About the fourteenth day, the father told me, that the child had been in great pain the whole of the preceding night; that two days before, it had scratched a finger with a pin, and that the finger was now *mortifying*. I found the whole hand swollen, and, apparently, having a chilblain. The fore finger, upon the last joint, had a *black blister*, as large as half a horse bean; the child had been in excessive pain, with sickness, and a very quick small pulse. I wrapped the finger in lint, wetted with laudanum, and the hand in sal ammoniac, vinegar, and spirit of wine, and prescribed syrup of white poppies freely, and extract of bark. The mischief was speedily corrected, but an ulcer was formed upon the finger, which, like other ulcers arising from chilblains, was slowly, and difficultly healed.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE transmitted to you as above, the Report of the proceedings of the Royal Somerset Jennerian Society during the past year; very ardently I hope, that a success in the train of example of the county of Sussex may lead to similar measures of every county in the united kingdom. The appointment of the Duke of Bedford (whose munificent patronage of all the arts which contribute to the welfare of mankind, and whose zeal in favour of vaccination as President of the Royal Jennerian Society is so honorably

bly conspicuous) to the government of Ireland, will no doubt give sanction and extension to this invaluable practice in the sister kingdom.

The results of our practice would have been communicated to you without a comment, but that I am led to make some in consequence of perusing the Report of Dr. Wood, of Newcastle, on the progress and success of vaccination in that town, in your Journal for February last.

The example of some controversies in your Journal, would certainly lead me to the careful avoiding of similar engagements, on any question which did not involve the interests of important and philosophical truth; such I consider to be concerned in the opinions which Dr. Wood has expressed, in opposition to Dr. Jenner's most ingenious and sagacious observations on the influence of herpetic eruptions of the skin, in altering the character and appearance of the vaccine pustule. Dr. Wood's ideas on this point are thus expressed. "I can now also, with some confidence, advance my opinion, though contrary to some late prevailing opinions, that some other eruptions, herpes for instance, do not prevent or lessen this security. I have been cautious in advancing this opinion, though founded on my experience and frequent observation, because Dr. Jenner has advanced a different opinion." I have on the contrary, been accused by a Mr. Clement, in No. 75 of your Journal, of not producing in my former report, "those sterling instructions as well as observations on this particular point that Dr. Jenner had given. I apprehend that those instructions are only sterling, which are the result of much and accurate observation; or that those observations only are of value, that are derived from experience."

This latter sentence of Dr. Wood contains a truism in which I most heartily and perfectly concur, and it is on this basis that I join issue with him. How far he may have been more cautious in the demonstration of his opinions, because they militated against those of Dr. Jenner, I confess that, from the spirit of his remarks, I am not a little sceptical.

It is not my intention, Gentlemen, to enter into any extended pathological discussion on the subject, but to refer to the "result of much and accurate observation," and the evidence of facts.

Besides the 354 cases of perfect vaccination, reported by the Royal Somerset Jennerian Society in Bath, there occurred

occurred eleven cases of spurious pustule. Of these, *nine actually took place in subjects considerably affected with herpes, and as such, were recorded at the time in our register.* Two more of the eleven persons had been insusceptible of small-pox, but had also spurious pustules. Two more were *perfectly insusceptible* of the vaccine disorder, who were considerably affected with herpes. Our Register is directed equally by myself and my colleague, Mr. Tudor, and, as well as the inoculated persons, is open to the inspection of superintending physicians and gentlemen, members of the Society.

As the term, *spurious pustule*, has been a subject of much philological quibbling, I will give it such a definition as may be grappled with. It is the most ordinary and uniform deviation from the appearance and action of the vaccine pustule; it has a premature, more diffused, and differently coloured inflammation; at an early period it contains purulent matter, and desiccates into a soft crustaceous scab. Such appearances I affirm to constitute the *ordinary variety* of effect produced by the inoculation of vaccine virus; and such I contend, in the most accurate language of pathology, may be designated as *spurious pustules*. As far as the instances above quoted tend, I believe their causation by herpes to be certain, and I could prove the same by much greater personal experience. The question is too recent to admit of reference to authorities, but I will adduce an extract from the proceedings of the Institution, to promote Cow-Pox Inoculation in Nottingham, by Dr. Clark, in your Journal for March ult.

"We have in about ten cases, observed a peculiar scab following a regular vesicle. It is *formed earlier* than the usual scab, but I am quite at a loss for words to describe it so as to be understood. It is of a greyish brown colour, laminated; considerably elevated above the surface of the cuticle, and about four times the dimensions of the common scab; its edges are ragged, and its surface rough; *the persons on whom it is observed, have been most commonly scorbutic.*" Dr. Clarke here, no doubt, employs the term scorbutic in its more usual acceptation, that is, to denote cuticular disease; and in this meaning, his description is much in proof of my argument on the question.

At a period of active hostility, between the vaccinists and their unprincipled opponents, I most sincerely deprecate the existence of a difference of sentiment, which is marked with the character of party, and which I ardently wish to see converted into unanimity of exertion, against the

the common enemy. I allude to the panegyrics of Dr. Wood on Dr. Pearson's services in the cause of the Vaccina. To the "Statement of Evidence by the Vaccine Pock Institution," I with much pleasure admit the interests of vaccination to be essentially indebted. On the history of some early proceedings in vaccination, I have already given my sentiments,* and it would be as repugnant to my present, as my former conviction, to retract them. If these should, by some, be deemed partial, weak, or incorrect, I am proud of perceiving a coincidence of opinion, in the able, spirited, and argumentative "Reply to Anti-Vaccinists," by Mr. Moore.

I am, &c.

THOMAS CREASER,

One of the Surgeons of the Royal Somerset Jennerian Society.

Royal Somerset Jennerian Society.

THIS Society have much pleasure in reporting to the public, the result of their endeavours for the promotion of Vaccine Inoculation during the past year; and although it will appear, that from the opposition of prejudice, interest and ignorance, the numbers of poor vaccinated in the city of Bath are but comparatively small, yet the Society have well-grounded hopes, from their general success, that by steady perseverance on their part, every difficulty will (in a very few years) be overcome, and the small-pox, once considered as a plague, will no longer exist.

It is with the utmost satisfaction they have to state, that even in the first year of this institution, no less than 1429 persons have received from it the benefits of Vaccine Inoculation; of these, 1075 were vaccinated at the twenty-eight stations appointed by them in the county of Somerset for gratuitous inoculation, and only 354 at the principal station in Bath; and it is with the deepest regret the Society reflect on the number of persons who have suffered affliction, disease and death, from the natural small-pox during the last twelve months in this city, when so safe and

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* Vide Observations on Dr. Pearson's Examination of the Report of the Vaccine Pock Committee of the House of Commons, second Edition. —Murray.

and certain a preventive was gratuitously offered to them by this Society.

In the number vaccinated by this Society either in Bath or the county of Somerset, not a single instance bas occurred of death, of indisposition (but of the slightest kind), or of subsequent disease.

The Society have also additional and well-founded satisfaction in observing, that although the casual small-pox has raged with unusual virulence during the late summer, and though the vaccinated persons have been frequently exposed to its most active contagion, yet in *no one instance*, which has come to the knowledge of the Society, has small-pox succeeded to vaccination. Supposed cases have, indeed, been brought forward in the public papers; but these, on fair, candid, and patient investigation, have been proved to be totally unfounded.

Their principal station has afforded a constant supply of perfect and genuine vaccine virus to the medical gentlemen and others in Bath and the county of Somerset.

Instructions for the due and efficient practice of Vaccine Inoculation, together with plans of the Institution, have been circulated throughout the county (a measure the Society have every reason to believe essentially important), and every possible publicity has been given to the undertaking by advertisements in the public papers, handbills, &c.

In the prosecution and extension of their important designs, the Society hope for the continuance of public support, and flatter themselves they have a more than common claim on their liberality, both with respect to pecuniary aid and general concurrence; as there is hardly a physical evil, the abolition of which would be more beneficial to society than that of the small-pox.

The Society have the honour of acknowledging the great approbation of their proceedings, expressed by the Magistrates assembled at the quarter-sessions of the peace of the county of Somerset.

The Surgeons of the Royal Somerset Jennerian Society attend at the Bath City Dispensary every Monday, at three o'clock, for the gratuitous vaccination of those who apply.

Subscriptions received at Messrs. Hobhouse and Co's Bank, Bath.

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

Gentlemen,

In the Frankfort Journal for February, 1806, is the following article. "The reports of several committees of vaccination, established in Spain, as well as in the new world; reports which are all accompanied with attestations delivered by the civil and judicial authorities, unanimously confirm the happy result of this salutary practice.—The natural small-pox, which almost every year desolated Mexico and Peru, has lost its malignity in those climates to such a degree, that the number of children who fall victims to that scourge, is reduced in the proportion of nine to one."

On a former occasion I communicated the intelligence, which I received from Dr. Longmore, of Quebec, relative to the practice of vaccination, which he had a second time introduced into that remote corner of the British dominions, by means of armed vaccinators, sent by me.—About a year ago, I received further dispatches from him, dated November 23, 1804, in which he informs me, that although he had at first met with great obstacles, from the extreme ignorance, prejudice and superstition, which prevail among the bulk of the inhabitants of that province, yet he had been able to propagate the practice to a considerable extent.

He had also been so fortunate as to transmit the virus, with instructions, to some of the more intelligent inhabitants of lower Canada. Mr. Fox, a magistrate, of Isle Percée, in the district of Gaspée, on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, has also done much in this great cause of humanity; as appears from his letter, which Dr. Longmore prevailed on him to publish in the Quebec Gazette, in order to stimulate others to the same benevolent exertions. This letter he has transmitted for my perusal.

He has also received similar communications from several other gentlemen, residing along that coast, stating the extent and success of their endeavours; and he is of opinion, that the blessings resulting from vaccination have in no instance been more conspicuous, or more gratefully received, than among the poor inhabitants of this district. Dr. Longmore says, "their situation was peculiarly distressing, when this sovereign antidote was sent for their relief." He says, the small-pox then prevailed there for the

the first time, so that men, women, and children, were indiscriminately exposed to the contagion; and being entirely destitute of medical assistance, numbers must otherwise have fallen victims to the ravages of that dreadful disease.

The terror into which they were thrown, overcame every prejudice, and determined them universally to adopt vaccination; which was practised by the most enlightened of them, with complete success. But the advantages of the practice have not been confined to this district: they have also been extended along the shores of the New Brunswick side of the Bay of Chaleurs, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; and the majority of the inhabitants of those settlements have adopted vaccination.

Dr. Longmore has also transmitted letters to shew, that his exertions, and those of other philanthropists, have not terminated with man in his civilised state. The tribe of Mickmack Indians have also participated in the blessings of this greatest, and most beneficial of all discoveries; particularly to them, for their dread of the small-pox is beyond all description; and to them the disease generally proves fatal. The expressions of gratitude, in the letter of their chief, may therefore be considered as sincere.

The first letter alluded to by Dr. Longmore, was published in the supplement to the Quebec Gazette, in October, 1803, and signed Theophilus Fox, I. P. Isle Percée, district of Gaspée. It there appears, that this worthy magistrate had a very arduous task to perform; a spurious disease having been previously propagated in the district, and many lives having been lost in consequence of a supposed security. At length, however, he surmounted all difficulties by his ardour and perseverance; in which he was ably seconded by the Rev. M. Le François, Curé of Bonaventure. Both these gentlemen acted the humane part of practising vaccination, and putting their patients to the test of variolous inoculation, with their own hands.

Mr. Fox informs us, that there is not a single person within ten leagues of his residence, whom he has not converted; and no one who has not either gone through the small-pox, or vaccine inoculation. Among the latter were several women, far advanced in their pregnancy, and children only a few hours old; none of whom received the least injury from the operation. Having giving an interesting detail of his practice, and of the impression it made on the minds of his patients, he expresses his gratitude to Divine Providence, for enabling him to rescue so many of

his

his fellow creatures, from the most fatal calamity that ever afflicted mankind.

Mr. Fox concludes his letter with observing, that having done all he could within his reach, he was then preparing vaccinators, with a lancet, to send to the chief of the Mickmack Indians, at Ristigouche. The Rev. M. Le François offered to be the bearer; and having become an expert inoculator, instructed them how to perform the operation. Mr. Fox conceived he could not make a more valuable present to these poor Indians, to whom the small-pox proves so fatal, that it strikes them with a greater terror than the sword. He apologizes for the lengths to which he has gone; and informs us, that vaccination has fixed its reputation among the inhabitants of the district of Gaspée, on the firmest basis, without medical aid.

It appears by a letter from the Rev. M. Le François, to Dr. Longmore, that the Bishop of Quebec, and the Canadian Clergy in general, received the tidings of this happy discovery with a cold indifference, as too many of the clergy and of the laity, in other *civilised* and *enlightened* countries, have done; but it is evident from a letter written by Mr. Edward J. Man, of New Carlisle, to Mr. Fox, transmitted to me, that the unrefined and untutored Indians received it as the gift of heaven.—Mr. Man was desired by Mr. Jacke Gagnion, their chief, in behalf of his tribe, to return Mr. Fox and Dr. Longmore sincere thanks; and to add, that he offered his fervent prayers to the Almighty for their health and welfare; as the only return in his power for so great a blessing.

Almost every member of this tribe had submitted to vaccination, with a perfect confidence in the efficacy of the practice, in which they have not hitherto been disappointed; and, having recommended it in the strongest terms to their brother Indians, throughout Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, no doubt was entertained, that within a few months, it would be generally circulated in that quarter.

I am informed by a gentleman, who lately travelled through the United States, that vaccination is there also making a rapid progress. I long ago stated, that the President, who may so justly be styled the Father of his People, had not only patronized it, but likewise introduced it into his own family, and practised it with his own hand. He also transmitted matter to many of the states. Such an example could not fail to diffuse the blessings of the Jennerian Discovery through that extensive tract of the new world.

I have now before me the Report of the Central Committee of Vaccination at Paris, published in the year 1803. They state, in their preface, that the practice at first met with a powerful opposition in France; as I have mentioned on former occasions, although the contrary has been affirmed in more than one channel. "Chimerical fears were propagated, and imaginary dangers alleged, in order to check its progress. Though the practice was successful, this was not sufficient to prevent its opponents from multiplying those obstacles; and any unfavourable circumstance that appeared, when exaggerated by lying reports, was sufficient to keep the public mind in a state of suspense."—This is an exact counterpart of what has happened in other places; but we are told, that in Paris, the advantages attending the practice were then so manifest, as to silence all opposition.

An address of the Minister of the Interior is prefixed to this work; in which he informs the Committee, that he has read their Report with great interest; and that the Government has seen with pleasure a free and disinterested association zealously occupied in ascertaining, in the most authentic manner, the real advantages of this valuable discovery. "In the first moments of your re-union," says he, "it has founded on your labours great hopes for the progress of the art, and the consolation of humanity. You have perfectly justified its attention; and your operations, which are crowned with the happiest success, secure you an honourable claim to the gratitude of the public.

"Your Report, and that which has just been made to the National Institute, reflect great light on this salutary practice; and, it appears to me, ought irrevocably to fix the general opinion in its favour. In consequence of this, I invite you, in the name of the public welfare, to continue your experiments; and for this purpose, I will afford you all the assistance of which you have occasion, *by submitting to your disposal a place for vaccination, whenever you desire it; and, if necessary, by appropriating certain funds for the support of the institution.*"

From this and other documents it appears, that although vaccination was discovered in this country, and was not for a considerable time introduced into France, it has there, from its introduction to the present time, met with the countenance and protection of government, which it has never met with here. Fas est et ab hoste doceri.

The French minister approves of the idea of opening a new subscription for the extermination of the small-pox, by

by means of vaccination; and says, he shall voluntarily unite in this philanthropic act, requesting that his name may be set down in the list of subscribers for the sum of two thousand francs. What a contrast is this to the conduct of a minister of another country, who was solicited by the Royal Jennerian Society to subscribe to the same philanthropic act, and refused to have his name set down for a single farthing. This was not the minister who held the reins of government, when a remuneration was granted to Dr. Jenner.

The French minister, not content with contributing his pecuniary aid to the promotion of this patriotic design, declares that he intends to excite the emulation and zeal of the committees of vaccination in the departments, and of the different learned societies which are occupied in the practice, that it may triumph over all the obstacles which oppose its adoption.

He also declares, that he will take measures for introducing it into public seminaries and charity schools; and engage the minister at war to extend its benefits to the different establishments within his jurisdiction. He expresses a hope, that the happy results of the new experiments about to be made upon a more extensive scale, would fix the wavering resolutions of those, who still hesitate to acknowledge the advantages of vaccination; and his most ardent wishes, that the fathers of families would imitate the example of government; and hasten the destruction of that scourge, which commits such immense ravages on population.

He tells the committee, that their report cannot be made too public; and desires them to send him five hundred copies, which he may send into all the departments.

Hence it appears, that our enemies eagerly embraced the practice of vaccination, and promoted it with all the just influence and authority of the state; and that their government has set an example which no government on earth should blush to imitate; by exhorting the people to adopt a plan recommended by the most enlightened practitioners, not leaving them to be deluded, impoverished, and massacred, by quacks and impostors.

The committee have made the same mistake as their countrymen in general, respecting the first promoters of vaccination in London. They speak of a Doctor Simmons as one of these. This error took its rise from Mr. Simmons, of Manchester, having made experiments with the matter of grease. Those experiments proved unsuccessful;

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and therefore were far from confirming any one of Dr. Jenner's opinions; but Mr. Simmons has, since that period, adopted vaccination, and united with every other eminent practitioner in England, in recommending the practice.

The committee are decidedly of opinion, both from their own experience and th t of their correspondents, that the cow-pox is not an eruptive disease; and that when vaccine vesicles appear in any other parts, except the puncture, it is in consequence of the insertion of vaccine virus, either by the nails, or some other means. In the last number of the Journal, a contrary opinion is expressed by the reviewer of Mr. Moore's pamphlet, and Dr. Jenner's authority is quoted in favour of that opinion; but the passage of his work, in which he admits this point, is not mentioned. It is, however, contrary to the general sentiment of medical practitioners throughout the world; and some circumstances which have fallen within my own observation, enable me to account for that diversity of opinion. I have known several instances, in which children have been observed to scratch the place of inoculation immediately after the insertion of virus; and to inoculate themselves in other places, particularly in those where they had an eruption; which, by the itching with which it is attended, provokes them to scratch, and by the readiness with which the cuticle is there abraded, facilitates the insertion of matter.

From much experience, numerous inquiries on the subject, and particular attention to this point, I am perfectly convinced that no cow-pock ever appears, but where vaccine virus has been applied. I have known in one instance, five or six rise on the hands and arms, at the same time with the vesicle produced by inoculation with the lancet; but in that case, the child, who was about four years of age, was observed by both its parents to scratch the puncture as soon as she was vaccinated, and then to scratch herself in several other places, where she had been bitten by bugs.

I have also seen, at least a dozen cow-pocks surrounding the original one, but later in their appearance, and smaller. This occurred in a boy about seven years of age, who was almost covered with the itch, but vaccinated before any remedy was employed to cure that disorder, because the small-pox prevailed in the neighbourhood. No instance has occurred within my observation, nor have I been able to hear of any, where a cow-pock appeared in

any

any place but that of the insertion of virus, in an infant too young to scratch the part affected, and inoculate itself again. In some instances, a second has been occasioned by an accidental puncture of the lancet; and I have known cases, in which this has been noticed by the by-standers, but escaped the observation of the operator himself.

The committee have observed, what has also been repeatedly noticed by others, that the modes of inoculating by means of a blister, or of thread, are more fallacious than others, on account of the suppuration, and spurious pustules thus occasioned. They likewise remark, that among other causes of pustules of this kind, which are doubtful and obscure, there are two principal ones, which are evident from their own experience; first, the insertion of vaccine virus into a subject that has had the small-pox; secondly, the insertion of matter taken from a cow-pock at too late a period.

After adducing the strongest arguments, and the most striking facts, to prove the safety, mildness, and efficacy of vaccination, the committee observe, that in addition to the other attacks made on the character of the cow-pock, its very existence has been denied; and it has been thought by some persons to be only a species of small-pox, mitigated by transmission from the human subject through the brute animal. This hypothesis they consider as visionary, and think it can only arise from want of reflection. In their opinion, it is absurd to suppose, that variolous matter can be sweetened, or rendered milder, by passing through the nipple of a cow.

The committee state, that Cit. Tessier, member of the national institute, had made experiments, in order to ascertain, how far it was possible to transfer the eruptive diseases of animals of one species to those of another. He found it as easy to inoculate sheep with the matter of the sheep-pox, as human subjects with the matter of the small-pox; but did not succeed in his attempts to inoculate other animals with the matter of the sheep-pock. The committee had tried these experiments, but with no better success. A great number of attempts were made eight years before, at the School of Medicine. Variolous matter was taken from pustules still remaining in a body buried more than twenty years. With this, and with recent variolous matter, a great number of animals were inoculated, such as sheep, apes, dogs, rabbits, and birds of different kinds. Matter of the sheep-pock was also tried on several

sorts of animals, in order to ascertain their comparative susceptibility, but it only succeeded in sheep.

The committee observe, that Mr. Simmons had also inoculated two cows with small-pox matter, but without effect. Cit. Marchier, of Peronne, also inoculated sheep for the small-pox; in consequence of which, small white oblong pustules appeared on the fifth day, which neither resembled the small-pox, nor the cow-pox. With matter taken from these pustules, on the seventh day, he inoculated a child, but without producing any disease.

The Jury of Health and the Medical Committee of the department of the Somme, inoculated a cow, in the nipple, with matter of the confluent small-pox, by eight punctures, but produced nothing more than an eruption of pimples, of the size of millet seeds, not bearing the least resemblance to the small-pox.

Lastly, Cit. Voisin informed the committee, that he had inoculated a number of cows with small-pox matter, and others with a mixture of small-pock and cow-pock matter; but without effect. The committee, therefore, consider the transmission of variolous matter through the brute animal as a gratuitous supposition; and that, as to the modification of the virus by any such means, it is an idea contrary to all observation and analogy. We have no proof that any morbid poison is mitigated in such a manner. Even the cow-pock itself, among the few diseases communicated to us by the brute animal, is a proof of the contrary; since it is perpetuated in the human subject by successive inoculations, without undergoing any change. These are sentiments which I have often expressed, and which I published long before the report of the committee fell into my hands.

Having given a satisfactory account of their labours, the committee conclude their report with declaring, that all which has been asserted in favour of vaccination is now confirmed; and that they are perfectly convinced of the reality of the advantages ascribed to this new practice. Every thing proves, of what service it would be to all mankind, that it might be universally propagated; and that this plan, which is the offspring of an enlightened humanity, might be easily carried into execution. They also declare, that they cannot conclude their report, without returning a just tribute of acknowledgement to the illustrious author of this discovery, Dr. Jenner; being fully persuaded, that he will hereafter be remembered

among

among those who have reflected the greatest honour on science, and rendered the most important service to mankind.

The second annual report, lately published by the Cow-pock Institution, in Dublin, patronized by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, confirms in all the most essential points, that of the central committee at Paris; giving an additional sanction to the practice of vaccination, and still further refuting the unfavourable reports which have lately been propagated with so much industry in this metropolis.

The physicians of that institution, Drs. Clarke, Cleghorn, and Evory, and the Surgeons, Mr. Stewart, Mr. S. Obre, and Mr. Richards, remark, that this report differs in no essential point from that of last year; that in every instance the cow-pock observed its usual mildness, no symptom occurring to excite anxiety for the safety of the patients, although their number amounted to one thousand and thirty-two. They also declare, that no vaccine vesicles appeared, but what were obviously produced by an accidental application of the virus from the arm.

They remark, the small-pox may appear at any period of the cow-pock, before the formation of the areola. I have, however, repeatedly known it appear during and after the formation of the areola. One case of this kind is under my care at the present time, in a child of Mr. Young, No. 33, Swallow-street, exposed to variolous infection three days before vaccination. In this case the areola began to form on the ninth day, and the small-pox to appear at the same period. The areola has pursued its regular course, and the vesicle is gradually turning into a dark-coloured scab. The small-pox is extremely mild.

They state, that children affected with scrofula, rickets, and other chronic complaints, went through the cow-pock, as if no such diseases were present. On the contrary, Dr. Clarke, of Nottingham, in his letter to Dr. Walker, published in the last number of your Journal, describes a peculiar kind of scab, following a regular vesicle, in persons who are scorbutic. I should esteem it a favour, if Dr. Clarke would inform me, either through the medium of this Journal, or in any other mode, what are the symptoms in such patients, which he deems scorbutic.

In a note on another part of Dr. Clarke's letter, Dr. Walker delivers an opinion, which I consider highly dangerous,

gerous, and contrary to that laid down by all the best writers on the subject. It tends to lessen that extreme caution and circumspection, which all the other labourers in the vineyard of vaccination have so earnestly endeavoured to inculcate. He says, "when the pock has been ruptured, and even almost obliterated, if I can feel, about the tenth day, a degree of hardness and tumefaction about the inoculated part, I find, in people of every colour, that the protection is complete." This observation is calculated to put inoculators off their guard; and to render all the instructions of all the vaccine societies, as well as of individuals, on this point, null and void. If, after the rupture of the cow-pock, no vesication re-appears, it has hitherto been universally deemed necessary to repeat the operation; which is attended with very little trouble; and from which no material harm is likely to ensue. As to the induration and tumefaction, subsequent to the rupture of a vesicle, they are, in some measure, the necessary consequence of that accident; partly from the injury itself, and partly from the irritation of the air, and perhaps of the nails, as well as the clothes of the patient. I had, indeed, seen one instance, in which a child was pronounced safe on the fifth day, and brought to me on the sixth, by desire of an eminent practitioner in midwifery. In this child, there were two light brown scabs, but no remaining vesication. I requested the mother, who lived at a distance, to bring the child again, that I might watch the progress of the case, and re-inoculate it, but I saw her no more. The mention of such a case, however, will not be useless, if it serves to put the inoculator in question, a little more on his guard in future.

I could not quit this subject, without entering my protest against such dangerous doctrines. The light brown scab is no test of security; the induration or tumefaction is no test of security. *If no case can be secure without induration or tumefaction*, it by no means follows that the converse of this proposition is true; and that every case is secure, when either induration or tumefaction occurs.

I cannot, at this moment, recollect any place, where mention is made of the suspension of the cow-pock, and its continuing stationary, in consequence of other diseases under which the patient happens to labour at the same time, as noticed by Dr. Clarke; but it is a very common occurrence, and probably would be more alluded to in treatises on this subject, did it not agree with our experi-

ence

ence in other disorders. It is universally admitted, that one morbid action *generally* suspends another; it is therefore the exception that has commonly been thought worthy of notice, and not the rule. I have known a vaccine vesicle, when arrived at the eighth day, continue nearly stationary above a fortnight, and yield very active matter at last.

This circumstance of the exsiccation not proceeding, while the vital powers are weakened, convinces me that absorption is more or less suspended during that time; and the activity of the dry matter remaining in the scab, when dissolved, proves that little more than the aqueous portion of it is absorbed at last.

This document contains the testimony of the very respectable medical practitioners who superintend the Vaccine Institution in Dublin, whose names are mentioned above, that no diseases have been observed to follow vaccination, which could be imputed to that cause. They conclude their very valuable Report in these words. "No case occurred to excite doubt, as to the permanent efficacy of cow-pock in protecting the system against the small-pox, either in this Institution, or in the private practice of any of the gentlemen who superintend it; although a most malignant small-pox raged very generally, throughout this city and its neighbourhood, during the last summer.

"Since applications for cow-pock matter, and for inoculation, continue to increase daily, it is hoped that the period is not distant, when its salutary influence shall be as generally experienced in Ireland, as in Great Britain."

This Report, having been transmitted to the Vaccine Pock Institution, the medical officers of that establishment declare, that their experience agrees with that of the institution in Dublin, with regard to the uniform mildness of the cow-pock; no dangerous symptoms having appeared, unless the patient laboured under some other disorder at the same time. They agree with the gentlemen of the Vaccine Institution in Dublin, and with the opinion I have repeatedly expressed, that whenever vaccine vesicles have appeared in other parts, they have been produced by the application of vaccine matter to such parts. But they observe, that they do not here speak of those pimples, or small eruptions, like the tooth-rash, which often occur between the tenth and twentieth day after vaccination; and seem to depend on the constitutional disorder.

The medical officers of the Vaccine Pock Institution agree with the author of these remarks, that herpetic eruptions,

eruptions, as far as they have seen, have seldom occasioned any difficulty in communicating the infection of the cow-pock, nor altered its course, except from the patients, in such cases, scratching or rubbing their arms; and that, in general, neither scrofula, the rickets, nor any other chronic complaint, has interrupted the regular progress of this affection.

They admit, that they have had one case of the small-pox after vaccination, as far as they can trust their register; but they tell us, that whether the patient, in this instance, had really had the cow-pox, must be left to the determination *of others*. For my own part, I leave it to the determination of one of themselves, Dr. Nelson, the very person to whom the case belonged; who positively assures me, that the patient regularly went through the cow-pock, under his own inspection. The subject was a child of Mr. M'Pherson in Fitzroy Market; and I am one of the many witnesses, who saw sufficient proofs that it was followed by the small-pox.

I am, &c.

JOHN RING.

New Street, Hanover Square.

Case *of* Apoplexia Hydrocephalica; *communicated by* Mr. P. Weaver, *Surgeon, of Walsall.*

Hydrocephalus has long arrested the attention of the sons of Esculapius, and the means suggested to conquer this hydra have been as numerous as the symptoms are complicated. You, no doubt, will coincide with me in opinion, how difficult a task it is to draw a faithful portrait of this truly proteiform disease, which assumes in its various stages, as many aspects as there are hues in the camelion. We are frequently puzzled in discriminating the symptoms occurring in children from irritation, occasioned by worms, dentition, crudities in the stomach, cum aliis, from those peculiar to the primary stage of hydrocephalus, or hydrops capitis, which must be productive of much anxiety to the practitioner as well as risque to the patient, who is seldom capable of furnishing us with much information.

The subject of the present case, was a boy 3 years old, who had been indisposed some time previous to my

seeing

seeing him, but which was attributed by the father (who is an intelligent and well informed man) to worms. The first symptoms were nausea and vomiting, with convulsions. I ordered an emetic, afterwards a dose of calomel, which had the desired effect, by evacuating the bowels, which were constipated. My medical avocations precluded me from visiting the patient the following day; but on the third, found he had no return of the convulsions; appeared languid and inactive, often drowsy and peevish, though at intervals cheerful, and apparently free from complaints; the head was not particularly large, yet appeared heavy and burthensome, inclined more to one side than the other; the eyes watery, and affected by an exposure to light; the pupil dilated more than usual; frequent starting and screaming in his sleep, as if much terrified; at intervals delirious; likewise an increased aqueous discharge from the nose. From the above symptoms, I had not much reason to doubt the nature and reality of the disease. On the fourth day, after minutely investigating the various symptoms and probable cause, I adopted the following plan: Ordered blisters to be applied pone aures, and one to the occiput, to be kept open with the ung. attrah; previous to which three leeches were applied to each temple; the bowels remaining costive, repeated the calomel.

5th day. Feverish towards the evening; the face much flushed, particularly the left cheek; the pulse quick; no strabismus, nor return of convulsions; the calomel had operated; ordered the following febrifuge,

℞. Aq. puræ. ℥iij. Aq. Ammon. A. ℥ß. Spt. æth. nit. ʒß. Vin. antim ʒj. Syr. sacch. ʒß. M. Coch. j. larg. 3tiis. hor. sumend.

6th day.—The child was irritable and peevish; the eyes red and heavy, with the lucis intollerantia of Cullen; moans much in its sleep, and frequently delirious; makes but little urine; the head more pendulous. The bowels continuing costive, and paucity of urine, ordered the following:

℞. Calomel. ppt. gr. vj. Pulv. digital. gr. iij. Sacchar. alb. ʒj. M. & divid. in pulv. No. vj. Mane et vesp. sumend.

7th. No particular alteration; and as the stomach retained the powders, ordered them to be taken 4tis horis, with an anodyne hora decubitu.

8th. Had made more water; the bowels moderately lax; a tolerable good night; the symptomatic fever abated; can bear the light better. Continue the medicine.

9th.

9th. The child much the same; medicine continued.

10th. Though the child continued mending, yet considered it of consequence to keep the bowels lax, and the absorbent system in action, therefore ordered the powders to be repeated, with digital gr. j. and calomel, gr. ij. singulis 3tiis. hor. sumend. Omit the mixture. Rept. haust. anod.

11th. The blister continues discharging freely; the bowels regular; urine plentiful; and the child progressively improving both in health and strength.

13th. Found my little patient restored to perfect health, excepting slight debility, consequent upon the disease, and the active means used.

The above case, though perfect in its outlines, yet, like a rough statue, requires polishing. As to purity of diction and elegance of language, I leave to those literati, who study to please and amuse, more than edify; suffice it to observe, the present case may tend to evince the propriety of using active means, and that with a steady hand, and perseverance, *nil desperandum.* Though I have no singular practice or infallible remedy to boast of, yet have the satifaction of raising an individual, who must inevitably have fallen a victim to a disease, that destroys more subjects than the dire effects of either war, pestilence, or famine; and generally evades the most judicious mode of treatment. Thus, by a happy combination of two powerful agents, digitalis and calomel, aided by topical remedies, much good has been done, but which I am persuaded neither of them, *per se,* would have effected. I have reason to believe, that if hydrocephalus was in general undertaken, previous to the second stage, it would not, in a majority of instances, evade the usual mode of treatment.

For Fistulous Sinus's.

From ample experience I have reason to recommend the following formula, and with the elastic syringe, as equal, if not superior to any other in use; and should it prove as efficacious, in the hands of other practitioners, it will be considered (though simple) as a valuable desideratum in the chirurgical practice.

R. Aq. calcis. ℥iſs. Tinct. canth. ʒiij. Tinct. opii. ʒi. M. ft. injectio.

Feb. 26, 1806.

Case of Constipation of the Bowels, removed by External Friction;

By Mr. Weaver, *Surgeon, Walsall.*

THOUGH the patient fell a victim to the complaint, yet it does not tend to disparage the means used. The child had been afflicted many days, previous to every recourse to medical aid; no evacuation had taken place for the space of ten days, at the expiration of which I was applied to, and found the child verging upon the precipice of eternity. The abdomen was extremely tense, upon which a blister was applied, having first premised the warm bath; she had frequent inclination to stool, accompanied with tenesmus, nausea, and vomiting: the rectum and colon were completely blocked up with indurated fæces, which her father occasionally removed with an instrument of his own manufacturing. Enemas of various kinds were used, but ineffectual; also castor oil, in conjunction with the usual remedies on similar occasions, as calomel, with and without opium, cathartic ext. &c. all to no effect. Fourteen days had now elapsed without being capable of affording the least assistance. When the regular mode of practice is rendered abortive by the obstinacy of the disease, we are frequently obliged to have recourse to the most plausible theory, though it may not have been sanctioned by the success of practical experience. I recollect the late Dr. Johnston, of Worcester, ordering immense quantities of hydrargy. pur. as a dernier resort, in similar cases; but the dictates of reason must ever revolt at a theory, so replete with mechanical ideas. That the specific gravity of quicksilver might be sufficiently ponderous, to force its way through a perpendicular tube, where no adequate resistance could be made, cannot admit of a doubt; but in the intestinal canal, which abounds with numerous circumvolutions, the *vis inertia* would unavoidably resist the impulse of the quicksilver.

After the present digression, permit me to observe that I recollected reading of a case of Constipation that was entirely removed (and the patient survived) by stimulating the intestines to action, through the medium of the absorbent system, but did not recollect the medicines used; however, the following were tried:

℞. Ung.

℞. Ung. ceræ. flav. ℥ß. Calomel, ppt. ʒij. Antim. tart. ℈i. Pulv. opii, gr. x. ft. liniment.

A fourth part of which was well rubbed upon the abdomen (where the blister had been applied) 4tis horis. After the friction had been used twice, a large quantity of fæces, intermixed with purulent matter was voided. The child died the morning following.

Quere. Whether the absorbents could have been acted upon in so short a space of time, so as to have procured the evacuation? or if the near approach of death might not have had a tendency to cause that relaxation of the system which ensued prior to her dissolution?

Quere. If the plan had been adopted in the early stage of the complaint, might it not have been productive of beneficial effects?

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

"Truths built on observation and experience seldom stand single, they generally lead to others, and become the means of more diffusive knowledge." *Pott, on Palsy of the Lower Limbs, p.* 432.

Gentlemen,

Retrospective views are sometimes not less useful in the practice of medicine and surgery, than in the political concerns of a well regulated government, where the advancing welfare of the people forms the most prominent feature of the laws and constitution.

That the avidity for something new should increase with advancing knowledge is perfectly natural; science is happily progressive, and whatever of folly, of luxury, or of the evils of misguided ambition, may have designated the close of the last century and the commencement of the present, the most carping cynical admirer of the days that are past, must concede that a Jenner and a Greathead have proved that something has been added to the sum of human consolations.

To confine our view in the present consideration to matters strictly medical, it has long appeared to me no unimportant enquiry occasionally to ask the question, Whether the zeal and ardour for extending and improving the advantages

advantages gained by former discoveries of acknowledged reputation keeps pace with the increasing eagerness of pursuit after something new?

Notwithstanding the exertions and experiments of a Withering and a Beddoes, have practitioners yet proved the full virtues of the digitalis? Do we know the full extent of the powers of opium, of arsenic, or of mercury? and are the several combinations of active remedies duly appreciated? Some powerful medicines have been ushered into the world with such exaggerated praise as to lead astray the most cautious, consequent disappointment has prejudiced them against the farther use of agents really possessing virtues of considerable eminence, although not equal to the expectations they had raised; some from their great power, and the caution necessary to their use have been too often laid aside, when it would have been sound policy to have had recourse to their aid. This being the fact, it becomes us (in my poor opinion) sometimes to pause, and to review. When the violent nature of the ambiguous disease which our great predecessor Pott considered as so insiduous in its attack, so slow and yet so sure in its progress, and so destructive in its effects, be reflected upon, that such a mass of mischief should be arrested in its progress, its dreadful effects not only checked, but wholly removed by apparently very inadequate agency; it is impossible not to occasionally consider what must be the power, what the influence of the action excited by the purulent discharge, artificially produced in the neighbourhood of the source of the evil by the use of caustic? A change so great, so universal, and unequivocally capable, singly and unaided by any auxiliary, of producing so mighty an alteration, must undoubtedly deserve frequent contemplation in every case which bears, or brings under our view, any thing like analogy,

In the medical art, it has often been the source of illiberal sneering, that the whim of fashion has not failed to insinuate her capricious and wayward fancies into the conduct of its most enlightened professors. To repel the invidious charge, it may be observed with the strictest regard to truth, that humanity and a constant anxiety to promote the honour and establish the success of the art, have certainly produced much of this avidity for novelty, this extolling of a remedy to-day and its abandonment tomorrow; and, what is more directly applicable to the purpose and intent of this paper, the neglect to which many valuable

valuable agents are consigned, not directly perhaps in few instances, but indirectly in many.

That excellent surgeon, my worthy preceptor, Sir W. Blizard, in his Friendly Lectures on a Sunday afternoon, used to observe to his pupils, "After having acquired all the information you can up to your own time, on any subject; after having made yourselves masters of all the knowledge of your predecessors; let it then be your first aim, your grand study, to endeavour to step forward from that spot, and your highest glory to have it in your power one day to say you have advanced, to have made but one successful, one useful progressive movement, by adding to the stock of medical knowledge, will entitle you to rank with the benefactors of the human race."

Having, in the course of the last fifteen years, met with several unhappy cases of severe contraction of the lower limbs, which incapacitated the sufferers from almost every enjoyment of existence, consequently rendering them wretched to themselves and burdensome to those around them: Having also repeatedly witnessed the absolute failure of the whole round of internal medicine, and external applications in producing even partial amendment, much less complete recovery in any one instance, the case now submitted to the Readers of your Journal fell in my way; and a short history of the subject will throw some light on the progress of the mischief.

John Edwards, aged 48, by trade a Mason, never remembers having any illness in his life until the 23d year of his age, when he was afflicted with a severe ague, which lasted nine months, and went off at the height of the summer season spontaneously. At the age of 37, whilst working hard at his trade in the Liverpool Docks, much exposed to damp and wet, he was gradually afflicted with severe pain near the bottom of his back, feverishness, loss of appetite, and cramp; feebleness daily increasing, but the lower limbs suffered but little pain comparatively, and were wholly free from the least degree of contraction; notwithstanding which, he could not assist himself in the smallest degree in turning in bed; and when placed on his feet, although he could stand and walk, yet he could not turn even his head round without turning body and limbs together. He was carried to the infirmary, and remained there several weeks, taking medicine and using the warm bath, friction, &c.; but not gaining ground so fast as he could wish or had expected, he one evening took his departure *sans ceremonie*, returned to his wife and children,

took

took brimstone, cream of tartar, and as strong a decoction of guaiacum shavings as could be made; in a few weeks the pain and stiffness going off, he returned to his employ, and worked seven years more in good health. His wife dying about the year 1797, he volunteered as a seaman, was appointed to Sir R. Onslow's ship the Monarch, and served under this officer in the action off Camperdown; from thence he went with Admiral Dixson to cruise in the North Seas till the battle of Copenhagen, where he fought in the same ship, then commanded by the brave Captain Moss, under the immortal Nelson; three weeks after this memorable engagement, Edwards was turned over to the Blenheim, where he continued till the peace of Amiens. On being discharged, he came with some fellow sailors in a chaise from Portsmouth to Birmingham; from thence on the top of the stage coach to Liverpool. In this journey he contracted a violent hoarseness, pains in his limbs, and a cough; nevertheless, he resumed his work, and continued it about a fortnight, when pain, feverishness, and weakness, sent him to bed entirely for eight weeks. One night he was suddenly seized with a total immobility of the right leg and left arm; the former was drawn backwards rather more than half way towards the buttock, and wholly immovable, though not very painful, except when attempts were made to straiten it; the arm was similarly affected, excepting that the hand instead of being inclosed inwards, as the arm was at the elbow, was strongly extended outwards, the limb resting high on the thorax. After remaining thus a fortnight he was placed a second time in the infirmary; soon after his admission the other leg and arm assumed a similar state, but were never quite so bad as the first affected; thus he remained wholly helpless for twelve weeks, took a great quantity of medicine and mercury so as to affect his mouth very much, went constantly into the warm bath, and was rubbed with ol. palmæ; his appetite gradually degenerated, emaciation and debility advanced proportionally, but he had now no pain whatever in the vertebral column, nor had he felt any thing of the kind this illness. In this situation, on it being proposed to send him to the poor house, he objected, and was carried on a man's back to a boat, and by that conveyance he arrived among some relatives in this city. A worthy lady in the neighbourhood gave him a recommendatien to our infirmary as an out-patient; he was attended several weeks by Mr. Hughes, house surgeon to the institution, with that attention to his case for which this

young practitioner is justly signalized. Tonics of every description, with opium, mercury, and friction, were again tried, with the favorite guaiacum decoction, of which the patient had an high opinion, all with unabated diligence, for several weeks. No adequate improvements appearing, the case was given up, and the sufferer thrown wholly upon his parish. In this hopeless state I first saw him, unable to lie in bed any way but on his back, with the limbs above described, and fed like a child: This was Nov. 10, 1802.

On examining the case, it appeared as completely one of those where scarcely any thing had been left undone that the symptoms indicated could be done, as any I had ever seen. The only idea that held out any feasible prospect of being servicable to the brave British tar, turned upon an accurate examination of the spine; yet to this examination I had no encouragement from any symptom mentioned to me. He retained his urine and fæces perfectly, had no pain in his back, nor any of the peculiar corded stricture affecting the stomach, so accurately noted by Mr. Pott; in short, there existed no solid evidence that he laboured under such disease as that so admirably described by our great predecessor. On causing him to be raised, this state of matters was confirmed; nothing seemed amiss with any part of the spine, from the atlas to the sacrum and coccyx. The urgent intreaties of the poor fellow induced me to try a new course of tonics; he took iron in various shapes, decoction of the woods, alkaline sudorifics, nitrous acid, alternated with the mineral arseniated solution, opium and bitters, the most generous food his stomach would bear, and he could procure, the constant and liberal use of fomentation and friction, with linim. ovi. ol. ped. bov. &c. administered twice a day.—Thus we persevered to the end of Sept. 1803. He had now acquired a little return of appetite and strength, was able to sit upon a chair an hour daily, had somewhat less pain when the limbs were bent; but this was all the result of great exertion to obtain a cure. I had nothing more to propose but country air, time, continuance of friction and fomentation. Thus the winter of 1803 and spring of 1804 were passed. In May, he could sit up half a day; now and then his limbs were somewhat more flexible, the arms better than the legs, though he could not yet bear crutches. He was now admitted an in-patient of the Chester Infirmary, under the care of Dr. Cuming, who gave his case considerable attention. He bathed again, and took

took tonic medicines, with a pill, which sweated him at night; but remained, after a trial of six weeks, much the same. He was carried home on the porter's back; and from thence, a few weeks after, to his parish, (Moldin, in Flintshire) in a cart; after which journey he was fully as great a cripple as at any time during his illness. I did not see him again till May, 1805; he now, by recurrence to the old powerful medicines, and better living, returned to the state he was in just a year before, remaining perfectly stationary.

By one of those fortuitous accidents which occasionally occur in the mind of every medical man, when vaccilating between first one remedial measure and then another, scarcely knowing which satisfactorily to adopt; recalling also to mind the motto of a worthy friend, *Dum spiro spero*, I determined to examine the patient again. As to the pain he had originally suffered in his back, he strongly assured me, that until his journey in the cart, he had felt no pain or even uneasiness there; but that since, he had occasionally an obscure aching, and pointed to the lumbar vertebræ as well as he could. On surveying the spot, not the least deviation from healthy form was perceptible, no aggravation of pain by pressure took place; however, I determined on applying a caustic on each side of the pained part. On June 10, this was done, and the eschars falling out about the usual time, each cavity admitted four peas; they were daily embued with ung. ærugin. the sores discharged freely; all medicine whatever was most gladly laid aside, and of the other external means, friction only continued. The situation of the issues made it necessary to touch them weekly with caustic. In about three months he became able to turn in bed without assistance, and lie on either side, which he had not done for so many years before; appetite, strength, spirits and freedom of motion, so far returned, that at the end of six months, the arms and left leg were become perfectly well; he could then go tolerable easy and quick on his crutches. A few days since, he walked to my house with an under hand stick only, and is now in all respects so nearly recovered, as to make it a matter of indifference whether he uses any support or not; the sores are kept discharging as at first.

It will doubtless be readily observed, that Edwards's is a solitary case of the good effects of topical stimuli in the form of caustic, in a case bearing but slight resemblance to those for which this noble remedy has now so long and so successfully been employed. —It is so.—I have none

 other

other at present to produce, in aid of the practice; but I cannot help thinking, and I hope without presumption, that when all its circumstances are considered, it was better to publish it, under the wish and belief, that by so doing the number will soon be increased. If this argument be not sufficient, in justification for occupying the time of the Reader, and the pages of the Journal, I can only say, the very common and distressing nature of the disease in question, with the little relief afforded by medicine, must stand forward as my apology.

I should have before observed, that this cripple was electrified at one of the Infirmaries, but not regularly; he was likewise galvanized, under my direction, three or four times from a powerful apparatus, skilfully applied by Mr. Dalton of Liverpool, when delivering a course of lectures here last spring; but complaining of being *dreadfully burnt*, at the part where the tin foil was applied, and feeling so oddly all over him, I could not prevail upon him to continue the process, although he acknowledged a belief that it would have done him good—"could he have stood the burning." The great length of time this affection subsisted, seems to prove decisively, that the mischief, if any, was formed in the vertebræ, was not precisely analagous to that description of case so accurately delineated by Mr. Pott, or its ravages must have been more apparent, and its symptoms more correspondent to the osseous malady; the flexor muscles of the lower limbs acted with such a force, that no exertion could straiten them in the least, without insupportable agony.—Mr. Pott tells us, he never saw a case of Palsy of the lower limbs in a subject above 40; he also says, the spinal curvature is "always from within outwards." Had Edwards a curvature, it must have been the reverse, and external proportionate depression would have been more or less manifest, which was by no means the case; the useless state of the limbs is not necessarily preceded by any evident alteration in the figure of the vertebræ, but the result of disease attacking the part; which disease, when removed, the limbs become restored, whether the spinal deformity be, or be not, removed.

I am, &c.

GEO. N. HILL.

Chester, March 10, 1806.

P. S. Your Number for December last, informs the public, "that any paper in answer to the first question for- the

the Fothergilian Medal for the year ensuing, will be received at the Society's House, Bolt Court, Fleet Street, any time previous to the 31st day of January, 1806."—But I was not able to find in any preceding Number, a statement of the subject of the question to be written upon; was this an oversight by the person who conveyed the intelligence?

ON THE CURE OF THE FEBRIS INTERMITTENS, BY THE AMMONIA PREPARATA; *communicated by* MR. PHILIP RAINBIRD, *of Cawston, Norfolk.*

P. N. ætat. 30, of rather small stature, thin habit, and dark complexion, was attacked with the Ague while employed in the Fens of Lincolnshire last autumn. Being unable to continue his occupation, he came to this place greatly reduced, and emaciated from the violence of the disease, which had been upon him three or four months; and he had not taken, as he said, any thing for it. When he applied to me, in the latter part of October, the intermittent had assumed the tertian type; and to the symptoms, which characterize ague in general, were added the unfavourable circumstances of a hard tumid abdomen, rather painful to the touch; great listlessness; frequent nausea; and total loss of appetite. Suspecting, from the state of the body and the appearance of the countenance, that the liver was unsound, or obstructed, I concluded the administering of the bark to be inadmissible; and having observed, about a year ago, the quick and unexpected recovery of a boy, ætat. 12, from a quartan ague, to whom the ammonia and the pulv. cort. peruv. were given in equal parts (only five grains of each) three or four times in the day—my attention was excited to a consideration of the efficiency of the ammoniacal carbonat, in that case; I therefore, in this, resolved to make trial of it alone in this form: ℞. Ammon. præp. ʒij. cons. cynosbat. q. s. ut fiat massa in pilulas xxiv. dividend. Two of these pills were taken quater in die quotidie, without any regard to the different stages of the intermittent. Six days had not elapsed, before my patient was much better in every respect. But complaining of a scalding of his water, which no doubt arose from the causticity of the alkali, during the rest of the time he took it, I omitted

the conserve in the above formula, and substituted two drachms of the pulv. gummi arabici, and made it into the same number of pills, with q. s. syrupi simplicis, which entirely obviated the affection. The man continued the medicine fourteen days longer, when every symptom of ague disappeared, and he now remains in better health than he had for some time been before his ague.

It would be highly absurd to form a positive conclusion in favour of the ammonia from the instance of a single case; but as my patient, being a poor man, had not the advantage of those powerful auxiliaries, wine, and a nourishing diet, usually combined where the bark is administered, I think the cure, as effected solely by the alkali, has a *great claim* on medical attention.

The ague being very rare where I am situated, my experience must be slow; I have therefore submitted the matter to the consideration of those whose situations may give them ample opportunity speedily to bring it to a decision. At all events, I intend to proceed in the probation of the ammonia; and, with your permission, through the medium of this Journal, at a future period, I shall offer some further observations on the subject.

Feb. 22, 1806.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

OUR countrymen are accused of being greater dupes to quackery than other nations. This imputation is I believe, unfounded, and arises more from the wealth of the kingdom increasing the facility with which quack medicines are advertized, and the numbers of people of all descriptions who are in a situation to encourage such impositions. Since the French revolution, it is well known that periodical publications of all kinds are much increased, and in a few years we shall probably find as large a portion of their columns engrossed by infallible remedies as meet our eyes every day in our own. In one instance they have stepped beyond us, for I do not recollect that any publication, calling itself a Review, has been used as the means of circulating the celebrity of such remedies, excepting on their wrappers, covers, or a few leaves tacked at the beginning and end. In a work

work, entitled La Revue ou Décade Philosophique, &c. lately instituted at Paris, is a paper too long to transcribe, but of which I shall offer enough to show that the whole is of such a nature, as would not easily find admission into any publication of the same kind in England. The paper is entitled, "*Observations sur un moyen nouveau de guérir l'Epilepsie, par M. Alphonse Leroy, Ancien Docteur Regent de la Faculte et Professeur de Medicine a Paris.*" The author begins by telling us, how much his labours had been directed to preserving children from a malady very common in the North of Europe. He next remarks, that in Russia, Denmark, and Sweden, *millions* of children become epileptic from the breast. That this probably arises from the habit of gin drinking among the nurses; ardent spirits made of grain being more deleterious than brandy; and the want of perspiration in the inhabitants of the North concurring to retain in the economy that gaseous principle which is the cause of this terrible disease. After this he enters into a deep disquisition on the causes which render spirits distilled from grain so much more deleterious than any other; and then assures us, that he has found epilepsy in grown people the effect of an old venereal taint, or of the itch.

To relieve so general and distressing a malady, M. Leroy informs us, that he has left no means untried not only in his own most laborious investigation, but, laying aside all prejudices, even in his enquiries after empirical remedies. He has also consulted many of his colleagues, among the rest M. Sabatier, the Nestor of French surgery; who acquainted him with a paper published by the French Academy in the year 1724. This paper mentions a green stone used by the savages of Oronoque, the virtues of which were very astonishing in the falling sickness. The extract given by M. Leroy is admissible for the period in which it was published, but that gentleman could have only one reason for bringing it forward in these times.

Les sauvages apportent quelquefois de la terre ferme ou de la rivierre de l'Oronoque une pierre verte qui est un reméde etonnant contre le mal caduc. Il n'en faut que la grosseur d'une tête d'epingle; mais il y a deux maniéres de s'en servir; ou la porte dans une bague percée en dessous, de sorte que la pierre touche la chair; cela suffit; ou bien, on la fait entrer par une legere incision entre cuir et chair. Dans quelque partié du corps que ce soit, elle exerce toujours sa virtue. M. Hauterive a vu l'experience de la pierre appliquée de cette seconde maniere à une personne

 sujette

sujette au mal caduc et qui depuis quinze ans n'a eu aucune attaque. M. d'Hauterive en a un petit morceau en une bague, qu'il garde pour en secourir quelqu'un dans l'occasion.

Full of this, and some other observations, M. Leroy tells us, he has been examining all the green stones which re found in the rivers of the western world. He has also made enquiries in every possible way, and thinks he has procured green stones enough from Oronoque to make several experiments, and concludes by telling us of an extraordinary instance in which he cured a most deplorable case. It is unnecessary to give all the particulars; but the author conceives the efficacy of the remedy will be greatly increased by the incision, as his patient tried it ineffectually for some time, applied to different parts of the body without breaking the skin. Lest we should suppose that the stone applied in this manner, produced no other effect than a common issue, we are informed that the patient found no relief from one which had been kept open for some time.

M. Leroy concludes by some sage remarks on the importance of the part to which this green stone is applied, and anticipates many objections which he is aware will be made to his remedy.

On the whole, Gentlemen, I think you will agree with me, that this advertisement is not more ridiculous than the anodyne necklaces, the virtues of which, are I believe, beginning to wear out. What success M. Leroy may meet with in France, I pretend not to determine, but the proposal seems to me too absurd for this country, so celebrated for its credulity.

I remain, &c.

Berner's Street, March 3, 1806. JOSEPH ADAMS.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

Gentlemen,

Having read in the 84th Number of your Journal, the history of a remarkable case of costiveness in a young woman, treated by Mr. Earnest, of the Sheffield Infirmary, which did not yield to the combined powers of the most active purgatives, but at length, medicines being

laid

laid aside, a cure was effected by the secret operations of nature. Upon this case, Mr. Earnest makes the following just observation, of which he will most likely not lose sight in his future practice in similar cases; and if what I have to add, should be deemed worthy of a place in your Journal, and be acceptable to Mr. Earnest and the rest of your Readers, I shall be gratified.

My remarks, gentlemen, are not intended as any thing very novel or extraordinary in the practice of medicine, but as a monitory exemplification to many who are too much in the habit of relying solely on strong cathartics, without reflecting that, in many instances, the application of such remedies, if continued for a length of time, will by their astringency increase the disorder, which it is their object to remove. As I have been particularly fortunate in the treatment of a great many bad cases of a similar description, I shall subjoin some of the most remarkable ones; the modus medendi will confirm the opinion which Mr. E. has offered, as to what might have been the result of a contrary practice. He says, "perhaps, had antispasmodics and cathartics been conjoined, along with the use of the warm bath, their general remedial powers might have proved more effectual and beneficial."

The first case I shall relate is that of a gardener, aged 28, of middling stature, stout, and had enjoyed good health, until six months previous to his consulting me, which was for the following most distressing disorder. His head was afflicted with the most violent pains; he was never free from pains and spasms in the muscles of the hind head and neck, his penis was contracted in a most astonishing manner; it was with the utmost difficulty that he could make water, and never had above one stool in fifteen or sixteen days; his sleep was much disturbed, his appetite impaired, and spirits much depressed; he told me that he had taken purgatives of every kind, without having experienced the least relief from them, and had become miserable under his sufferings.

I began my treatment by ordering him one grain of opium and one of digitalis purpurea every three hours; this very soon had the desired effect, the bowels and urinary organs began to perform their functions, and he continued those sovereign remedies for a considerable length of time; suspending them occasionally, and interposing small doses of calomel, his cure was completed by tonics.

Case 2d.—A lady, rather advanced in life, had a violent bowel complaint with costiveness, not yielding to the most

most powerful cathartics; had incessant vomiting, and threw up many gall stones. I was called in at this critical time, and ordered her opii. gr. ij. calomelan. gr. x. to be taken immediately, and to be put into a warm bath; in a short time she had a gentle motion; in a few hours I was under the necessity of giving her a solution of the natron vitriolat. which produced two more evacuations, but in three days she died.

Cases 3d. and 4th.—Two female patients, both advanced in life, had the most alarming disorders in their bowels, their stomachs rejecting every thing, and the injections which were made of a decoction of chamomile flowers, oil, and magnesia vitriolata, were strongly tasted in their mouths; to both of them I gave the same remedies as in Case, No. 2. They both of them were speedily relieved, and were very soon completely restored to their former healthy state; the three last patients had been bled before I was called in.

Case 5. A very corpulent woman, who had had several children, had at this present time a most difficult labour, of five days, attended with the most painful and distressing circumstances; she had been delivered only two days and a half when I was called in, and had not had a passage for eight days, though she had been bled, and had taken strong purgatives. The gentlemen who attended her, did not apprehend that there had been any inflammation; one of them was pretty confident there had not; I was of a contrary opinion. I found the woman evidently dying, but was desirous of procuring a passage, which injections would not effect. I gave her opii. gr. j. calomel. gr. vi. Pil. e colocynth. comp. gr. x. In four hours she had two gentle motions, after which she took tinct. opii. gtt. xx. in a cordial draught, and had wine and water given her, with gruel and broth; in the evening she had another good motion, but died early in the morning. I am of opinion, that an earlier application of the above remedies might have proved more beneficial.

Case 6. This shall be the last case I shall trouble you with, though I could enumerate others equally as important.

A farmer, about forty years of age, sent for me on the 9th day of an obstinate bowel complaint; nothing could pass him; his stomach rejected every thing, and he was in th most violent pain; his apothecary had been with him the morning, and assured him he could do nothing more f

his

him. As he lived at some distance from hence, and at an equal distance from the apothecary, and being late at night when I was sent for, and the messenger telling me, as correctly as he could, the nature of the man's case; I took two papers of calomel, one of eight grs. and the other of five grs. and a small quantity of laudanum. Upon my arrival at this good man's house, I found him in great pain; his abdomen was excessively hard; his stomach rejected most things; his pulse did not indicate inflammation: the purgatives and injections, that had been administered, proved ineffectual. I ordered the belly to be fomented, and gave him the eight grs. of calomel, and forty drops of laudanum; in one hour he found himself much easier; in two hours thought he should have a stool. I then left him, ordering, that if he had not a stool in one hour more, to give him the five grs. of calomel, and xx gtts. tinct. opii. After the second stool, I wrote to the apothecary, requesting he would see him in the morning, and if he had no evacuations, to give him the natron vitriolat. with senna; and if that did not succeed, and the pains return, that he should take some blood from him, and apply a blister to the abdomen; the former part of my plan did produce some effect, but not to that extent that the apothecary thought was the desideratum, consequently he pursued the whole of my plan, with the happiest effect.

This is all that I have to state with respect to Mr. Earnest's paper, and have only to observe, that the treatment I have here laid down, requires the greatest caution, and ought not to be attempted indiscriminately by the young beginner. I am, &c.

Ripon, Feb. 27, 1806. G. CAYLEY, M. D.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

YOU will oblige me by the insertion of the following additional remarks in your next Number, on the machine for fractures of the thigh, of which an account was given in your eighty-third Number.

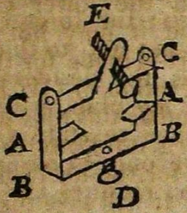
As there may be some danger, when a patient is moved to any distance upon the machine, of the lower ends of the bolts (B. B. fig. 2.) getting out of the notches upon the main

main frame at (R. fig. 1.) by any sudden jerk of the bearers or involuntary motion of the patient; that danger may be obviated by a ring being screwed into the upper side of the lower end of each bolt, through which a strap may be passed, and buckled securely round the frame.

The screw (U. fig. 1 and fig. 3.) should be set more obliquely upwards than represented (in fig. 1.) in order that when the extremity (W. fig. 3.) is elevated to the utmost, the knobbed extremity of the screw U. may be at the same distance from the hinge at V. that it was at its entrance at U. The screw U. ends in a knob with a short neck, by which it is fastened through a perforation in a small iron plate to (V. W. fig. 3.)

If the lower buckles (I. I. fig. 1.) of the leg splint are fixed so as not to have any lateral motion, it will be necessary for the lower staple (b) near the footboard (X. fig. 3.) to be two inches wide, as the distance from (A. to W. fig. 3.) will be lessened by the elevation of W.

The footboard iron (fig. 4.) not being quite correctly represented, requires a little explanation. It is a square iron frame of this form:



The spaces between A B and A B are equal to the thickness of the end of the support, (W fig 3), the internal projecting piece A A being designed to slide upon the edges of the support where the hollow is made for the reception of the heel; and the spaces between A C and A C are designed for the cushion of wool, which forms the bed for the limb. To prevent any chance of it sliding down or being lost, a short thick screw might be made at D, to press against the bottom of the support; but that cannot happen from the pressure of the patient's foot. The holes at C C are for the screws which form the pivot of the board, and its elevation is regulated by the screw E. The neck through which this screw passes, and the upper part of the frame from C to C, should be made tolerably strong to resist the pressure of the foot against the board. In cases of compound fracture, or of wounds in addition to fracture, the support (fig. 3) will be liable to be disagreeably

bly stained. To prevent this it may be made of lime-tree wood, which will take a brown stain with oil.

My second sized support (fig. 3) measures from D to A, 11 inches; from A to V, 5 inches; from V to W, $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Its greatest width 5 inches, and its least $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches, with splints of a corresponding size. This will suit men under the middle size, and women generally.

My smallest sized support (fig. 3) measures from D to A, $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches; from A to V, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; from V to W $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches; its greatest width $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches; its least $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. This will suit children from six or seven years to twelve or fourteen; the hollow for the reception of the heel in all the supports should be made about six inches long, to suit legs of different lengths, and that the longest admissible length of the shorter size may be equal to the shortest admissible length of the size next above it. I have not given the above proportions as the best, but as a guide to those gentlemen who may be disposed to construct a similar instrument, until further experience points out a better. It will be useful to have the lower strap of the leg splint (I fig. 1) as distant from the lower end of the splint as it conveniently may, that it may not be in the way of the foot where the support is made for the shortest leg that it will admit. As the elevation of (W. fig. 3) shortens the distance from A to W, and as this elevation will always be necessary in a muscular leg, it follows, that a short *muscular* leg will reach the hollow for the heel when a short leg that is *not muscular* will not. It will save the surgeon some trouble if the notches upon the main frame at R are numbered, by figures painted on the side, or written upon paper with sufficient accuracy, and then pasted on each side of the frame. The notches of the bolts Q Q (fig. 2) are prevented from taking hold of the *lower* staple, by the angles of the bolts being filed off, and by the lower staple being made of this form:

The *upper* staple has its upper edge made thinner than its under edge, by which means it is accommodated to the notches in the bolt.

I am, &c.

Cheshunt, Herts, March 5, 1806. E. HARROLD.

T.

On the Effects *of the* heating Treatment *of* Burns *and* Scalds. *By* Dr. Kinglake.

In the 81st Number of your Journal, is a paper by Dr. Kentish, containing observations in favour of the stimulant treatment of burns and scalds, in my opinion not sufficiently qualified to exempt them from comment.

The Doctor, after speaking with unbounded confidence of the curative powers of the treatment he recommends, adds, "for my own part, I had arrived at that certainty of prognosis, that I could have insured the life of an individual by the treatment I recommended, and his death by any other." This opinion, under any circumstances, is surely too absolute for the precarious issues of medical practice.

It is not my purpose so much to question the correctness of Dr. Kentish's confidence in the efficacy of his terebinthinate remedy, in the case of burns and scalds, as to object to its being the only alternative from death in difficult cases. Stimulant applications have always appeared to me to be unsuitable in circumstances of inflammatory excitement, however induced, and more particularly so, when resulting from the destructive violence of fire. My objecting therefore to a proposed remedy, which neither principle nor occasion had ever led me to subject to trial, cannot be justly imputed to irrational prejudice. The alleged benefits of the practice are, in my judgment, superfluous, and directly repugnant to my accustomed mode of rendering the most desirable relief.

An early and unremitted application of cold water has, in numerous instances of burns and scalds, under my direction, afforded every aid that either the patient or practitioner could reasonably require. It has arrested the inflammatory career of mischief, and obviated those painful and ulcerative consequences, which are said to be so certainly within the salutary controul of oil of turpentine. The symptomatic fever which speedily ensues the unmitigated torture of burns and scalds, is effectually prevented, by keeping the injured part, during a few hours, under the influence of water, at the atmospheric temperature. It does more, it often either entirely rescues the part from vesication, or if that mischief happens, it is merely limited to the scarf skin. The true skin is not involved in ulcerative inflammation, and consequently the tedious processes of suppurating, sloughing, incarning, and cicatrizing

catrizing are superseded; what can the stimulant treatment effect more? or rather, how can it effect so much? Dr. Kentish does not inform us. He refers to experience, an authority to which all must bow assent, when that experience has been unquestionable.

If a patient, writhing under a degree of agonising torture from an extensive burn or scald, that *must*, agreeably to Dr. Kentish's "prognosis," necessarily terminate in death by any other mode of treatment than the fiery one which he recommends, be the *ground* on which we are to repose our faith in its *singular* and *infallible* powers; the Doctor must allow me to doubt the accuracy of his "prognosis," and to object to the boasted superiority of his remedy.

If both heat and cold prove remedial in the same complaint, the strange discordancy would involve the paradoxical question, which of the two opposite agents is the more salutary? This seeming contrariety of effect has not been explained by Dr. Kentish, in the paper alluded to; but it has since been undertaken by Mr. Harrold, in the last (84th) Number of your Journal. The well known Brunonian doctrine of indirect debility, affords the solution of the problem, which Mr. Harrold offers to the public.

To apply this undoubted and important physiological principle to the case in discussion, Mr. Harrold insists, that a degree of violence, approaching to that of burning, must be continued to cure the injury sustained; or, in other words, that though destructive stimulation has been afflicted, a somewhat slighter degree of the same agency is necessary to reconduct the powers of life to the healthful standard. The untenableness of this position may be aptly compared to the conduct of a horseman, who after urging his horse, by lashing and spurring, to an ungovernable speed, would be absurd enough to attempt to restrain him, by continuing to inflict nearly an equal degree of the same stimulant violence. Would not the irritated animal rather pursue his course with accelerated velocity, than resume a temperate pace under such goading discipline? Does not the parallel strictly hold with respect to the inconsistency of exasperating the inflammatory effects of fire, by applying to the burnt part additional excitement? What constitutes the diseased state of an inflamed part from the agency of fire? Is not every fibre capable of increased action, suffering under a most painful degree of inflammatory violence? Is there any conceivable want of excitement in such

such a state that could be salutarily supplied by either oil of turpentine or any other stimulant article? Do not the attending torment, the fiery aspect of the mischief, and common sense, concur in condemning the incongruity of aggravating the morbid state, by continuing the stimulant violence which induced it.

The theory which prescribes the re-conducting of inflammatory disease to the standard of health, by only gradually diminishing the force of the violence which occasioned it, is, in my apprehension, fraught with gangrene and death. It would appear to have been derived from licentious speculation; and though it may be plausible on paper, and have its hypothetical votaries, yet its practical application must necessarily involve a responsibility, much too serious, for my dread of its danger to encounter.

If morbid excess of stimulant power were to be thus measured back to the healthful state, what justifiable intention of cure has the medical practitioner to pursue, in endeavouring to reduce the incipient violence of febrile and inflammatory affections, by withholding the usual application of exciting agencies? If, pursuant to the Brunonian doctrine of reducing excitement, only by a slow series of diminution be the correct method of treating diseases of indirect debility induced by excessive stimulation, when can a warranty arise for copious bleeding, purging, perspiration, and for a rigid abstinence from all alcoholic or fermented liquors? Under no circumstances whatever. The diseases of direct debility will imperiously demand liberal excitement, whilst those which result from an indirect failure of strength, or those descriptively, from excessive action of motive power, are to be combated with a degree of excitement approaching to that which occasioned the morbid excess.

The whole of this doctrine appears to proceed on erroneous notions of the nature and effects of vital action, and of its salutary and morbid modifications. The error seems to originate in mistaking the *quantity* for the *quality* of excitement in the several states of life, health, and disease. The motive power of life is connected with peculiar organization, and the various appropriate influences exerted on it by suitable stimulants. The perfection of this agency is health, its default disease. In investigating the ground of this default, the object to be determined is the quality of the deviation from health by which

which it is constituted, and not the excessive or deficient force by which it is characterised.

The abstract question of too much or too little action is a mere hypothetical reverie compared with the notable fact, that every departure from the healthful state is necessarily more or less stimulant. It is this morbid change that has substituted irregular excitement for the orderly movements of health, and it is this irregular excitement, that becomes the leading object of attention, in the cure of diseases. An inflammatory affection of the brain occurring in the unbroken strength of youthful health, and the paralytic affection of the aged, arising from the diminished energies of life, are both marked, in a considerable degree, by morbid excess of action. In both, the cheek assumes the changeful flush, and the pulse the agitated throb, though with unequal violence and duration, and in both a guarded procedure with stimulant treatment is necessary. The morbid excitement in both states incessantly diminishes vital energy; in the former case with a healthful, in the latter with a mental tendency. Hence inflammatory disorders often gradually wear out the morbid excitement, and are thus spontaneously cured; whilst those of diminished energy, exhaust the remains of life, and terminate in death. Every variety of disease then is a state of unnatural excitement, and requires to be treated according to the *particular* indication of excessive, or deficient action, and not conformably to any *graduated scale* of stimulation.

Dr. Kentish confesses himself complimented in having the operation of his terebinthinate remedy, likened to the action of one fire extracting another, and observes, that the nearer the agent approaches the nature of fire, without being really such, "the more immediately would it fulfil his intention." Mr. Harrold goes farther, and requires also the co-operative influence of *internal* stimulants, effectually to overcome the local and general affection, ensuing the violence inflicted by burns. With the applauding epithet, "*the beautiful,*" he refers, in support of his opinion, to the Darwinian theory of *reversed sympathy,* which affirms, that in proportion as the excitement of the surface is plus, that of the heart and arteries is minus; and unless the excitement is balanced, there will be great danger of death.

Thus, as well in cases of burns as in the exanthematous affections, (which are in general considered as a salutary transference of internal irritation to the cutaneous sur-

face) the *interior* of the system must be equally excited, lest a *mortal minus* of action should ensue; in other words, a local burn or eruption must be extended through a general affection of equal violence, to obviate a deadly disparity of vital action. This notion is too *electrical*, too much connected with the laws of etherial motion, to be applicable to the functions of animal life.

Burns and all other violent diseases rapidly diminish the energy of vital power, and induce what is denominated indirect debility; but then it should be remembered, that the debility thus produced, is a growing evil under the continued influence of inordinate excitement. The inflammatory action and consequent torture of the burn, necessarily augments the weakness and endangers a mortal decomposition of vital structure, by its unabated continuance. Perchance, additional excitement stopping short at inducing gangrene, may indeed so far exhaust the living power, as to render it incapable of sustaining a painful degree of inflammatory action; hence may ensue, first, an unexcitable state of torpor on the surface of the injured part, and then a lifeless slough, which is ultimately detached by the suppurative inflammation, which recruited strength during the diminution of excitement, had been enabled to supply.

Thus, it would appear, that the most direct and rational mode of affording relief in all inflammatory affections, is not by augmenting the diseased excitement, but by lessening it in such a degree, as to obviate either a mortal, or threatening exhaustion of vital power. Indeed, the main scope of medical surgery, in its treatment of inflammatory and ulcerative surfaces, would seem to consist in avoiding additional excitement, and in reducing that which is inseparably connected with those diseased states, within such limits, as may at once prevent farther diminution of vital power, and allow the innate disposition to recover the healthful action by an uninterrupted procedure.

Taunton, Feb. 25, 1806.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

Gentlemen,

I Beg leave to request your insertion of the following facts, which, as they relate to the cure of a disease that has

invariably resisted the use of the best directed means, I think it of importance to my professional brethren, and mankind in general, and that it is my duty to bring it forward, unequal as I may feel to the task of doing it *properly*.

Mrs. P——, a widow Lady, at Laxfield, between the age of 30 and 40, had been for some time labouring under symptoms of Phthisis; she was attended by myself and Mr. Hinchman, an elderly and very eminent surgeon in this neighbourhood; we both considered her case as consumption, arising from the suppuration of tubercles, and a variety of means were had recourse to without effect. The disease went rapidly on; the expectoration was purulent, and very copious; the pulse in the evening at 120, and never lower than a 100; the hectic was regularly formed, and diarrhœa alternated with morning sweats; the lancinating pains of the thorax, with which she had been long distressed, disappeared about this time.—In this state she was visited by Dr. Hamilton, an eminent and scienitfic physician, at Halesworth, who considered her case as one not within the power of medicine, but advised a trial of the Uva Ursi. It was begun with in doses of a ℈j. ter die, in a weak infusion of the angustura, and increased to a ʒß. ter die. From this time an amendment began to take place; her pulse became less frequent; her cough and expectoration lessened; in fine, all appearances of disease, after a month's perseverance in the Uva Ursi, were either removed, or so much abated, that she considered herself well, and has continued so since last November.

Another case has more recently occurred to me of a similar kind, but of a more active nature, and more rapid in its progress; the disease was as clearly marked, and has been as happily relieved; the expectoration here, was considerably streaked with blood.

Such is a faithful account of the success of Uva Ursi in these cases. I leave it for those who possess more ability than myself, to explain how a medicine seemingly possessing so little power, compared with many others we are in the habit of prescribing, should act in curing a disease, so formidable in its nature, and in general so fatal in its termination.

I am, &c.

L. DAVIE.

Framlingham, Suffolk, March 15, 1806.

Case of Ulceration following Venæsection.

JOHN EDWARDS, ætat. 18, of a plethoric habit, was bled in the basilic vein—the lancet gave little pain, the blood flowed in a full stream, and when stopped, the orifice was immediately closed, and bound over in the usual manner. About three days after this, the orifice inflamed, became painful, and then ulcerated; the inflammation soon became diffused, while the ulcerated part healed. In a short time the inflammation occupied a considerable surface, terminating near the axilla above, and at the extremities of the fingers below; at the same time the limb swelled was very hot, tense, and painful. During the progress of these symptoms, all the phenomena of fever ensued; in consequence of which, an antiphlogistic regimen, and a solution of acetite of lead (to the limb) were ordered. However, the patient at this time, refusing all internal remedies, the whole was left to local ones, which seemed to relieve the part; but the state of the system continued much the same.

About ten days from the commencement of fever, the constitution was so debilitated, that tonic medicines were strongly indicated, and with this view, bark, opium and vinous drinks were prescribed. The whole limb soon became œdematous, and afterwards two dense cords appeared; one above, the other below the first seat of the injury; these followed the direction of the vein, united in the middle, and at each end formed a tumour, which upon being pressed felt painful, but by no means acutely so. To these, warm cataplasms were applied and frequently renewed.

By persisting in this plan, joined with the power of the tonic remedies, the constitution became vigorous, the local symptoms disappeared, and the muscles gained their powers.

As this case is rather curious and uncommon, it may be proper to offer a few remarks upon it.—The patient never was bled before, and therefore the cause may be difficult to investigate. However, three causes may be assigned, the most probable of which, let us endeavour to ascertain. The first is the puncture of a tendon; the second, the exposure of an internal cavity; and the third, the puncture of a nerve.

That it did not arise from the first of these is probable, because the vein was superficial, and no tendinous structure

ture contiguous; besides, had the lancet passed too deep, the artery must have suffered, as it passed beneath the vein, and seemed to pulsate very strongly. That it did not arise from simple exposure is also probable, for during the time the blood flowed, no air could possibly have access, and when it ceased to flow, its ready admission was prevented by the orifice being immediately closed and bound over; and I should think, if it could be attributed to this cause, it would not be so very rare an occurrence, especially when we consider the very little care that is generally taken, in applying the lips of the wound together. The most probable cause, is the puncture of a sub-cutaneous nerve. Every one will allow the probability of this, when they consider the dreadful symptoms that have been produced by the puncture of a small nerve, in the extremity of the finger. If the smallness of the nerve should be objected to, let us reflect on the violent symptoms sometimes present during dentition. These have been prevented by the transverse division of the nerve. Might not this be practised with the same success in inflammation of the arm after bleeding, when it originates from the puncture of a nerve?

Having now taken notice of the three most probable causes, and having mentioned that the local symptoms took their rise from a local cause, let us consider some further circumstances, with a view to illustrate another opinion; that is, of their being constitutionally local; by this, I mean that there may be a predisposition.—In behalf of this, I will mention, that the father was a stout plethoric man, and was bled some years ago: his arm inflamed, and he says, underwent the same disease as that of his son's. This would seem to point further, and to show an hereditary taint; but how far this existed, is not to be easily ascertained. Another argument, seemingly strong, might be deduced from the following fact. A young woman, apparently healthy, was bled in the basilic vein; this was followed by great inflammation. She said, that, every time she was bled, the same symptoms followed; these remarks would seem to favour a predisposition, but as this is very improbable, I will offer a few remarks in contradistinction to it.

First I will observe, that inflamed arms after bleeding, as often occur in constitutions apparently healthy, as in those that seem to be diseased; and in addition to this, I will add, that one arm of a healthy person shall lose blood and these symptoms arise, while blood drawn from the

the other arm, of the same person, shall not produce a single symptom. Of this I have seen a striking instance; but I remarked, that the person complained of pain, during venæsection, in the arm that afterwards inflamed, but not in the least in the one which remained sound. From these it would appear, that some subcutaneous nerve was punctured, and the constitution not in fault; the primary symptoms being quite local, while all those that were universal, seemed only to be the consequence of sympathy.

March 10, 1806. JUVENIS.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

Gentlemen,

THE extensive range of your valuable Journal, appears so appropriate for the communication and discussion of medical subjects, that I shall avail myself of the opportunity which it affords, to offer some remarks upon the cow-pox.

One would imagine that the weight of evidence, which has lately been brought forward from almost every quarter of the globe, in favour of Vaccine Inoculation, would have been sufficient to establish its fame and utility, and to silence the cavils of the sceptical and disputatious; but experience has not justified such expectations. Cases are perpetually quoted, which perplex the minds of practitioners, and disquiet the bosoms of anxious parents; a little serious reflection upon the subject, may possibly dissipate those fears, and strengthen the foundation upon which our assurances have been built, that the *true Cow-Pox* is, except in very few instances, an infallible preventive of infection of the small-pox, either by contagion or inoculation.

In order to maintain the truth of this proposition, it is necessary that every circumstance, through the several stages of the disease, should be carefully attended to, in such cases as are laid before the public, which has been, and I fear, generally speaking, ever will be, inclined to oppose whatever appears to be an *innovation* upon long established practice, not only in medical, but in every other science. That the judgment should pause, or pronounce with much caution, its approbation of any new mode of practice, is assuredly laudable; but when a mass of

of evidence has been adduced, and innumerable proofs brought forward of the efficacy of the vaccine inoculation, and the numerous advantages attendant, surely all doubt should vanish from the mind. A mode of reasoning employed by a late philosophical writer, upon a different subject, appears not inapplicable to the present occasion.

"A wise man," says that acute reasoner, "proportions his belief to the evidence. In such conclusions as are founded upon an infallible experience, he expects the event with the last degree of assurance, and regards his past experience, as a full proof of the future existence of the event. In other cases he proceeds with more caution; he weighs the opposite experiments; he considers which side is supported by the greater number of experiments: to that side he inclines with doubt and hesitation; and when, at last, he fixes his judgment, the evidence exceeds not what some call *probability*. All probability, then, supposes an opposition of experiments and observations, when the one side is found to over-balance the other, and to produce a degree of evidence proportioned to the superiority. A hundred instances or experiments on one side, and fifty on another, afford a doubtful expectation of any event; though a hundred uniform experiments, with only one that is contradictory, reasonably beget a pretty strong degree of assurance. In all cases, we must balance the opposite experiments, where they are opposite, and deduct the smaller number from the greater, in order to know the exact force of the superior evidence."*

Though my experience in the cow-pox has not been very considerable, it has been sufficient to furnish me with some anomalous cases, and other practitioners have related to me a few more, which, had they been given to the public, in their crude state, might have occasioned much alarm. A more accurate investigation of the circumstances, has, however, cleared up the supposed failures, and accounted for the discordant phænomena. It could be wished that every person who vaccinated, whether gratuitously or otherwise, would keep a register of the name, age, place of abode, and general state of the health of each patient; examine the pustule from the third to the tenth day of vaccination; examine the body also, to discover, whether it had been subject to, or was then affected with herpetic or other eruptions of the skin, and enquire,

 likewise,

* See Hume's Essays, vol. II. p. 119.

likewise, if the patient had ever had the chicken-pox, a disease nearly resembling, and not unfrequently mistaken for small-pox.

If these circumstances were attended to, and noted accordingly, it would be very easy, after recording the event of such case, to refer to their memoranda; and if the usual symptoms had been of a suspicious or doubtful nature, it could not be esteemed extraordinary, that the patient should afterwards become infected with the small-pox, either by the lungs, or the lancet. It is now some time since the nobility and gentry of Sussex, under the patronage of the Prince of Wales, liberally came forward, to establish an institution for the extirpation of the small-pox. Many similar institutions have been proposed and established by disinterested professional gentlemen; and lately at Nottingham, as your useful Journal informs us. Such examples are highly worthy imitation, and would probably be universally followed, if every medical practitioner would agree with his brother, within certain districts, not to inoculate the small-pox. Such provincial institutions would, I presume, in the course of a few years totally annihilate this destructive poison. But without some general concurrence of this kind, it is in vain, I fear, to expect those beneficial and extensive advantages, which might be derived from vaccine inoculation. It is a melancholy fact, that prejudice exerts its baneful influence, principally among the uninformed and lower ranks of society, though the higher orders, it is to be deplored, are not totally free from it. To remove, if possible, this rooted prejudice, let us apply to both ranks, the most convincing of all kinds of evidence, (viz.) the evidence of the senses. Let those who have undergone the *true Vaccine Disease*, be inoculated for the small-pox, in the presence of a few persons in each district, who disbelieved the prophylactic power of cow-pox, and the result could not fail to produce the desired conviction. If these or similar means, suggested by others, should be found unsuccessful, we must trust to *Time*, which we have known to establish many truths, which, at their first promulgation, the most powerful arguments could not defend or support, and rest assured that the obstacles thrown in the way of this most happy and fortunate discovery, will ultimately rather increase than diminish its value and its importance.

I am, &c.

March 7, 1806. VIGORNIENSIS.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IN the Number of your Journal, for the present month, I have just read a paper, the writer of which professes to suggest "Means of supplying the poor more effectually with medical assistance in the country parts of Ireland." As the writer of that paper, if we are to judge from its contents, is defective in the knowledge of the subject on which he writes, I request a place in your Journal for a few facts and observations, that his errors may be corrected, and that the minds of those of your readers, to whom the right sources of information are not open or accessible, may not be misled by incorrect representations.

The author of that paper, who assumes the *virtuous* signature of ANTIPECULATOR, begins with saying, "that, in order to supply receptacles for the sick poor, in Ireland, the legislature voted several considerable funds for the erection and endowment of hospitals, to be provided in the most central and populous town of each county."—Whereas, the fact is, that the whole fund then voted for each hospital, amounted to no more than 200l. *per annum*, one half to be issued from the national treasury, and the other half to be raised by grand jury presentment, on the county at large. Afterwards, when it was determined to annex to each hospital, cells and apartments for lunatics and ideots, a law was passed, authorising grand juries to make additional provision for the maintenance of those deplorable examples of human infirmity; but as the sum for each is only 4l. a year, exclusive of what may be necessary for cells and clothing, and the number in each hospital rarely exceeding fifteen, there is reason to fix the *maximum* expense at 50l. diminishing, in different years, until it go as low as 30l. *per annum*. So that, at the utmost, the funds, which the author terms *considerable*, did not exceed 250l. a year. But as the majority of the counties have not availed themselves of the provision made by the law for lunatics and ideots; it follows that, instead of the *considerable* funds generally spoken of by the author, and particularly rated by him at 300l. a year, the annual amount received for each hospital should not be reckoned, in common, at more than 200l. And, I believe, that in this kingdom there are several county hospitals, to which the casual contributions do not exceed 100l. *per annum*.

Hence

Hence both sources of support, established and contingent, did not, until the act of last session passed, exceed 350l. a year, in a number of instances, and during a number of years.

The next mistake into which Antipeculator has fallen, is that of saying, the law ordered the hospitals to be seated "in the most central and populous town of each county." On the contrary, the law, (enacted forty years ago), neither specifies the most central, nor most popuplous town in each county, but fixes for the site of many of the hospitals or infirmaries, small towns, on the verge of their counties, seeming to study more the convenience of country gentlemen, meeting at the assize town, than any other consideration. Nay, some infirmaries, first stationed in tolerably central and populous towns, were afterwards removed to other towns, possessing much less of these advantages. Your correspondent appears to have a particular design in representing the seat of all our infirmaries to be fixed in populous towns; if thus seated, his project of dissolving the institutions *in toto*, would be more feasible, because in those towns the medical attendants would have a greater scope for private practice; would be more numerous, to divide the labour of visiting the infirmaries, and would be in a ratio of society from which they might derive credit and emolument, by the attention and skill shewn in their public capacity.

But, perhaps, Antipeculator does not know, that a number of the towns, in which county infirmaries are established, are far from being of the description requisite to afford those advantages. *Lifford*, in the county of Donegall, contains only 24 houses liable to the hearth-tax; *Kildare*, in the county of the same name, but 30 taxable houses; *Boyle*, in Roscommon, 66; *Wicklow*, in Wicklow county, 76; *Navan*, in Meath, 80; *Cavan*, in Cavan county, 90; and *Omagh*, in Tyrone, about an equal number. Besides ten other towns, which consist of no more than from 110 to 198 houses, in the same taxable class. Thus we have a majority * of the towns, wherein the hospitals are seated, very ill calculated to support or encourage the residence of judicious medical gentlemen, unless they were induced by a given salary; and yet the very nature of those towns, the

* There are thirty-two counties in Ireland, and an hospital in every one, excepting Leitrim, where, however, steps are now taking to have one erected.

the much greater number of whose inhabitants is poor, renders an eleemosynary asylum for their sick a laudable measure, and perfectly consistent with the object of the Legislature.

He is again inaccurate when he says, that a surgeon, instead of a physician, was appointed by law to attend our county infirmaries; for the first law expressly states, that the "sum of one hundred pounds shall be applied either to *physician or surgeon*;" and a subsequent statute is so particular as to prescribe the preparative qualification of the physician, for which it enacts, "That no person shall be appointed *Physician* to any County Infirmary, who shall not be examined and certified to be duly qualified, under the Seal of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland." It is true, a person, under the denomination of a surgeon, where one only attends, is preferable to a mere physician, for the reason that Antipeculator assigns, namely, because the latter would not be competent to perform operations, and the former should be not only qualified for the mechanical or instrumental branch, but also for the physical branch or the treatment of internal maladies. At the same time, we should recollect, that a great majority of the cases, which are admitted into county hospitals, and indeed into the generality of the hospitals, are medical cases, and require little or no operative dexterity. Let us aslo recollect the maxim of the celebrated Hunter, who pronounced "The necessity of operations is, in truth, the defect of surgery." In consonance with this sentiment the Legislature proceeded when it enacted the preceding clauses; and corresponding ideas appeared to have influenced the conduct of the Governors of the Kilkenny Hospital; (from which city Antipeculator dates his communication); for they have chosen not only a surgeon but a physician likewise to attend in that institution. Moreover, several persons who are elected under the denomination of surgeons, in different hospitals throughout the kingdom, are graduates in medicine, and are deemed so much the more eligible to have the care of the patients. No doubt the present system of medical education affords persons, brought up more particularly in the surgical line, good opportunities to understand the philosophy and principles of medicine; and consequently they might be prepared to undertake the management of internal diseases. But it is well known, that very few of those, who are intended merely for surgeons, obtain the elementary

tary parts of education, which fit them to discharge with appropriate advantage the duties of a physician.

Your correspondent brings heavy charges against the county surgeons, no less than that of hiring out the spare wards of their infirmaries, and that of peculating the funds of the respective establishments; of which, he believes, that the surgeons are severally the principal administrators. That, in some cases, where the treasurer does not reside convenient to the infirmary, the money necessarily passes through the hands of the surgeon is doubtless the fact. But it does not thence follow, that the surgeon is a peculator; for all the money must first be paid into the hands of the treasurer, who issues it to the surgeon, when principal administrator, that he may apply it to the uses of the infirmary. The treasurer is always one of the most respectable gentlemen of the district, who, it is not to be supposed, would combine with the surgeon, if the latter were disposed to such baseness, for the vile purpose of defrauding the charity. Besides, the treasurer can be compelled by a summary process of law, (36th of the King) to render an exact account of the sums of money which he has received for the use of the hospital. Nay, farther, it is not to be supposed, that any surgeon, charged with such a trust, wuld be so lost to all sense of honour and probity, as to pocket the funds of a charitable institution confidentially committed to his laying out. The most irresistible motives oppose such peculation: the surgeon's education, his rank in society, his interest, all militate against the commission of an act of such depravity. And why will not Antipeculator allow to county-surgeons, in Ireland, conscience, and principle, and prudence, equal to what are found in men of a similar class in every civilized country! For my own part, I am convinced, that there exists not a surgeon of a county infirmary, in this kingdom, who pockets a single farthing of the monies set apart for the maintenance of the house.

Nor is the charge less injurious, which Antipeculator brings against the governors of those charities, who, he alleges, connive at the peculations of the surgeons, because the former are the patrons of the latter. Whereas, independent of one great bar against peculation, viz. the repute and rank of the governors, he omits observing, or is ignorant, that in many cases a number of the governors neither are patrons, nor friends, of the surgeons, being prejudiced against them by leanings to others of the profession,

profession, with whom the surgeons have been, or are, competitors, &c. But, in fact, the avenues to peculation, concerning which Antipeculator is so indignant and abusive, if they ever were open, are now completely closed, by the act of the last sessions respecting our county hospitals. By that act, the treasurer of each hospital must annually verify upon oath his accounts, and each surgeon must state upon affidavit the number of patients received and relieved, before the hospital to which they belong can obtain the additional grant, 500*l. per annum.*

Antipeculator states, that in the cities of Ireland, "abundant hospitals are erected and endowed for the relief of the poor, and medical practitioners are emulous of the honour of being elected to administer their eleemosynary aid." Admitting that there are some hospitals where this species of disinterestedness may be found; it cannot be allowed that it is general, even in our first cities. In his own city, Kilkenny, whose population is rated at 14,975 persons, certain portions of the 100 l. a year are given to two medical attendants, under the denomination of physician and surgeon. In Limerick, whose inhabitants are reckoned to amount to 40,000, the surgeon of the county hospital receives a salary. In the city of Cork, estimated to contain at least 60,000 souls, there are two hospitals, the *North* and the *South* hospital, which, exclusive of the county infirmary at Mallow, receive both national and county grant, portions of which go to the payment of physicians or surgeons. And in Dublin, the metropolis of the kingdom, there are three infirmaries or hospitals, viz. the Charitable Infirmary, Mercer's Hospital, and the Hospital for Incurables, which have similar grants for similar purposes, exclusive of the one called the Meath-hospital, appointed for the county infirmary. From these instances, (the Meath-hospital excepted, whose medical attendants give up the salary to the house) we have sufficient reason to doubt that there would really be found, even in our cities and large towns, enough of medical practitioners "*emulous* of the honour of being elected to administer their eleemosynary aid;" whilst, in the small towns already mentioned, two persons rarely would be had to produce emulation, where neither honour nor emolument could be expected. The solitary instance, furnished by the County of Dublin Hospital, like every other single exception, proves the truth of the general rule; and at the same time, the hospital being seated in our chief city, whose population amounts to nearly 200,000 souls, serves to remind us, that

that the necessary inducement to relinquish the salary was in full force, viz. an extensive field for practice.

With respect to the other count in the indictment, namely, that of hiring out spare wards to lodgers, it is a practice which rarely can be followed, because very few hospitals have spare wards, and the accuser himself confesses that he *heard* only of one or two instances of its being done. Indeed, his information appears to be all of the *hearsay* kind; and, what is worse, from the sounds of this *hearsay* voice does he compose the grossest imputations, uttered indiscriminately against gentlemen of a liberal profession, and who are in a respectable station in society. Thus, like the *public accuser* in revolutionary France, his charges are held in one hand, and his condemnations in the other, without having recourse to enquiry, evidence, or any other just and conscientious source of truth. If in any instance wards are let to lodgers, and only six or seven paupers on the foundation, it must be owing to a defect of contribution necessary to provide for the occupancy of all the wards, and may be ascribed to the governors and other wealthy residents in the neighbourhood, with more justice than can be converted into a pretext for censuring the surgeons. Not only in this point, but in many others where abuses have *really* crept into those establishments, I believe it will be found, upon due examination, that the cause originates in the supineness, indifference, and want of public spirit amongst those who have the power and means to act otherwise.

Gentlemen, who have the government of charitable institutions, ought to consider that, though they give *plenteously*, they do not give *enough*—money alone will not do—something more is still necessary:—they should always bear in mind, that *expenditure* is not so essential as *regulation;* money may be given with even a profuse hand; but it will be given in vain, unless they whose duty it is to direct and superintend the affairs of the institution have knowledge, attention, and perseverance. Thus qualified, they will be able to keep each part of the institution in harmony with the other, and will thereby render the whole a useful, satisfactory, and durable establishment.

But until this sense and exercise of public duty become evident, what surety would there be of a more faithful discharge of the trust by the managers of county hospitals, provided Antipeculator's proposal of dissolution were to be adopted? I cannot conceive any probable ground to expect a resuscitation of public zeal on such change,

where

where no new nor greater motive for it could be presented. Opening the institutions to single guinea subscribers, as he contemplates, does not appear calculated to bring about that end. It is already permitted, by law, to take place in three of our hospitals, viz. the county of Dublin, Queen's county, and Tipperary; but I do not know any practical benefit which they have reaped from that privilege. To me, considerable objections appear against it. By giving to a one guinea subscriber a privilege equal to that which is enjoyed by a three guinea subscriber, the princiciple of equity is transgressed, and gentlemen of the first rank, fortune, and liberality, are disgusted, and retire altogether from the management of the hospital, leaving it assuredly in no better, and perhaps eventually in no more numerous hands For the guinea-men, like the voters in a borough, when they had gratified their vanity in the election of a surgeon, the motive assigned by Antipeculator, would vanish from the stage, and, true to their political exemplars, not another guinea would they give to the fire of the infirmary. What advantage, then, would be derived from numbers of this description? Is it probable that the majority of a numerous body of this nature, would answer the purpose expected from them by Antipeculator, namely, that they would surely fix on a person of probity and high professional reputation? In reality we find, that the majority of *numerous* bodies is as little to be trusted for a conscientious disposal of votes, as the majority of small bodies of men; perhaps experience would justify the conclusion, that the former is *less* to be trusted than the latter.

Besides, the whole code of infirmary laws must be repealed, and new ones framed, in order to open the doors of all the institutions to those guinea subscribers. But in fact there is no reason to make such innovation, even on the principle assumed by Antipeculator; for, by the new act already mentioned, which authorizes the establishment of dispensaries in towns and villages throughout every county, subscribers have the honour of voting for the medical officers of those establishments, and of acting in the government of all the other affairs of those supplementary hospitals. These auxiliary institutions are to be placed under the direction of the respective bodies of governors belonging to the several infirmaries; and thus at once will the utility of the infirmaries be extended, and a general relief for the sick poor, over all the counties, will be obtained. Nay, by the new act, of which Antipeculator takes

no

no notice, all his fuss and flourish about the sick poor are rendered null and void; for that act directs abundant "means of supplying the poor more effectually with medical assistance in the country parts of Ireland."

Before the salaries hitherto paid to the surgeons can be withdrawn, as Antipeculator advises, the existing statutes on the subject must be changed, and others made to legalize the alteration. But previous to such a *sweeping* measure, though probably in the end not a *cleansing* measure, it should be considered whether it would be wise and just to carry it into execution. We have seen, that a majority of the towns, in which county hospitals are seated, do not afford the resident surgeons opportunities for obtaining sufficient practical emolument; that these very towns require most the advantages of a local infirmary; and that a medical practitioner hardly would be found to attend *gratis* an hospital so situated. The present surgeons enjoy the salary by virtue of an Act of the Legislature, and depend on the faith of the state for a considerable part of their bread. Where, then, would be the wisdom and justice of dismissing at once the present surgeons of hospitals so circumstanced, and depriving them of their salaries? It would, surely, be not only an unwise and unjust measure, but it would also be treating the surgeons with unmerited harshness and obloquy.

If any of the surgeons are to be deprived of their salaries, let an official examination first be made into the state of all the cities and towns, in which county infirmaries are established; and having classed those cities and towns into populous and non-populous, let the surgeons of the former retire upon an annuity, and let those in the latter be continued, at least until the respective towns would arrive at the given degree of population. By this means the faith of the Legislature and State would not be broken, the objects of the charity would not be disappointed, and the desired retrenchment would eventually be obtained. Let me ask too, is it not an established rule, when a person is deprived of a salary which he had enjoyed for a length of time on the guaranty of the law, without having forfeited his right by misconduct, that he shall be entitled to an adequate compensation? For each annuitant, then, I would propose that the 100l. a year, now issued from the treasury to each hospital should be appropriated; and I would also propose, that every such annuitant should enter into engagements to contribute his services to the hospital, when required, in consultation and otherwise,

otherwise, by which the advantages of his knowledge and experience would be procured in critical and intricate cases.

To the surgeons, whatever be their number, who should be continued in office, I think it would be no more than an act of common justice to allow an increase of salary, so as to make it amount to the clear sum of 200l. *per annum* for each. This is only what they are fairly entitled to, when we candidly consider their claims. A person, in order to qualify himself to be a candidate for the surgency of a county hospital in Ireland, must have received a genteel and classical education; he must have served an apprenticeship of five years to a regular bred surgeon; he must have studied at a good school of physic and surgery; he must have undergone a trying examination in the Royal College of Surgeons at Dublin; and from that College he must produce letters testimonial of his qualification to undertake the office he solicits. In the exercise of his office, he is liable to the very troublesome charge of lunatics and idiots, and on him devolves the arrangement and superintendence of the county dispensaries, over and above the care of general patients in the hospital. So that, whether on the score of information or of duty, many surgeons in the service of Government, and who have ample salaries, are not better entitled to approbation and reward than our county surgeons. To this may be added, the expensive nature of a surgeon's education, and the greatly advanced price of every necessary of life. All these circumstances put together, render unquestionable the claim of the county surgeons to an augmentation of salary; and, consequently, it cannot be supposed that the Legislature, or the constituted authorities, will think of opposing it.

Indeed, it is to be expected, that every just and unprejudiced reader will see intrinsic marks of truth in the whole of this statement, and will support the cause of a deserving class of men, who are pursued by the spirit of envy and detraction. In particular, to those of your readers, who have interest and intercourse with our senators, I would appeal in behalf of my aspersed countrymen, and intreat their services toward defeating the aims of the revilers. On the wisdom and justice of the Imperial Legislature, when suffered to have full operation, no one need be afraid to repose his trust; whilst the candour and equity of the British public ensure an impartial hearing and judgment on the occasion. In fine, gentlemen, by giving this defence immediate publicity in your Journal, and in any

additional way you may think proper, you will at once serve a meritorious body of men, promote the interests of truth, and gratify, Yours, &c.

INVESTIGATOR.

Londonderry, March 11, 1806.

On the Origin and Progress of Empiricism. By Duncan Forbes, M. D.

(Continued from Vol. xiv. pp. 437—448.)

In a former paper I have endeavoured to trace the rise and progress of the ancient sect of Empirics; I have also attempted to prove, that this very respectable class of physicians were empirics in the good and proper sense of that term, and that their conduct and practice were diametrically opposite to the conduct and practice of their impudent, illiterate, and irrational successors in modern times, who pay no attention to nature in the cure of diseases, follow unconditionally their own crude undigested ideas, or implicitly adopt those of others.

In the progress of my inquiry, I arrived in my former Essay, at that stage of it when the various tribes of collectors and workmen, whose province it formerly was to bring the simple and compound medicines ready for use, to the *apotheca*, or *repository* kept in the house of the pharmaceutic physician, at length availed themselves of such superficial knowledge of their qualities, as they casually collected, to usurp the office and dignity of their masters.

Thus did the empirics insensibly descend to the level of the vulgar; or rather, through the intervention of the chemists of the latter ages, the sect was new modelled. They now neglected all erudition, and even disregarded the history and symptoms of diseases; the causes of diseases they now explained in their laboratories; and from the result of their pharmaceutical processes, adopted the modes of cure. They arbitrarily assigned certain remedies to particular parts of the body, on which they were supposed to exert their effects by a peculiar predilection. Hence, the classifications of pectorals, of stomachics, of hepatics, of cephalics, of cordials, &c. One medicine attracts and eliminates the bile, another the pituita, and a third the atrabilis or melancholy. Some preparations irradiate

radiate the animal spirits, by others they are darkened and obscured.

Such were the idle conceits of the chemists, of which our modern quacks are the servile imitators. Serapion and his followers, while duly attentive to the operation of remedies, assiduously explored the nature of the disease; our modern empirics confine their range within a more limited sphere of observation: To an acquaintance with medicine they attach some degree of importance, but the diseased actions of the system form no part of their concern. The empirics of antient times may therefore comparatively be regarded as true physicians, while the highest rank which justice can assign to their modern brethren is, that of an ignorant conceited apothecary's apprentice.

Folly and sound reason cannot be exhibited in a more contrasted opposition, than in the conduct of the modern quack, when compared with the department of the scientific practitioner. The latter assiduously repairs to those sources of knowledge from which the latter turns with disgust; because every conscientious man, who in his daily practice finds himself involved in perplexity and darkness, would wish to avail himself of the experience of his predecessors. General science and medical literature are constantly regarded by the true physician as the luminaries which must dissipate the gloom which too frequently overhangs him in his progress; but in the estimation of the empiric, these luminaries are stripped of their importance, and to his eye, the light which they afford is less interesting, because the number and the nature of diseases are already determined, and exactly correspond with the evident or occult qualities of his nostrums. To the experience of others our infallible quack seldom attaches any consideration; neither does it merit his regard in what effect a different treatment of a similar disease resulted. In restoring the system to a healthy action, nature, in the empiric's opinion, is indeed a feeble agent; but then, every obstacle must give way to the sovereign efficacy of his specific. It is sufficient that a medicine posesses a certain virtue; and unavailing would be the attempt to imitate nature in the solution of the disease; every thing depends on the remedy; and no dependence can be placed either in the efforts of nature, or in the prudence of the physician.

It has been well observed, that the less we know of the material world, the more extensive we suppose our acquaintance to be with the world of spirits; and there can be no

no doubt, that from ignorance of the operations of nature, and of the laws of the animal economy, has originated that predilection for superstitious remedies, which in every age has constituted so prominent a feature in the character of the people. The people have neither leisure nor inclination to reason; credulity is of course for them more convenient, than the researches necessary for the investigation of truth. This credulity the medical impostor knows how to turn to his account; it, indeed, accords with his own capacity, for he too is not greatly gifted with a talent for disquisition; and to affix a barbarous name to a universal specific, is a less arduous task than to study the nature of a disease, and to apply its appropriate remedy.

It is an observation of the great Hippocrates, that a physician ought to possess a tranquillity and dignity of mind superior to superstition of every kind; because it is impossible, says he, to be superstitious and at the same time to see the truth. This incomparable man, at a time when physic was entirely founded on superstition, resisted with energy the torrent of ignorance. In his Treatise on Epilepsy, he exposes in a masterly manner the tricks of impostors, who undertook to cure by means of amulets and charms, diseases which they were unable to relieve; and there is not a single instance in his own voluminous writings, which savours of credulity or superstition.

Happily for mankind, in the greater part of Europe, the empire of superstition is greatly circumscribed; but there are principles in human nature, which to a less or a greater degree will perpetuate its domination, and to the most superficial observer it cannot fail to be obvious, that over medicine it exercises a very despotic influence. It is surely no less absurd to determine the nature of a disease from inspecting the contents of the urinal, than from the flight of birds to predict the fate of an empire; and yet there are thousands and tens of thousands, who acquiesce in the urine doctor's decision with a confidence equally implicit, as the Roman populace ever received the predictions of the avispex.

Impostors of this cast are not confined to Britain. In Langneau, a village of the *ci-devant* Swiss Cantons, there lived not many years ago, and for aught I know, there may be still in being, a certain *Michael Schuppach,* whose fame, at one period of his career, was so widely diffused, that patients flocked to him from almost all the countries of Europe. He confined himself wholly to the inspection of the urine. During the summer months the village of Langneau

Langneau was constantly crowded with visitants from Basle, Berne, and other towns of Helvetia, some of whom went to consult *Schuppach*, others from a mere impulse of curiosity, to witness the procedures of this rustic physician, who always received his guests in his night cap, and waistcoat without sleeves, for he never wore a coat. He kept an excellent *table d' hote*, and was very moderate in his charges. Many of his patients were of the highest rank, and even diplomatic characters were occasionally found at the levee of this empiric. He erected a handsome building for their reception near his hut, and likewise a laboratory in which he prepared his medicine. A German physician, of reputation and ability, attempted to undeceive the people, by exposing the artifice of *Schuppach*, and published a small treatise upon the subject. The people, however, as is too commonly the case, attributed this well-meant performance more to jealousy than to philanthropy.

The vulgar regard the urine as a mirror in which all the internal operations of the body are immediately perceptible. They therefore expect that the physician, from the bare inspection of this excrementitious fluid, and disregarding every other symptom, should not only ascertain the nature of the disease, but also decide on the patient's constitution. Ignorance naturally produces a predilection for the marvellous; and accordingly, proportionate to their ignorance, do their prejudices take the firmer hold of the minds of the people; and there have been physicians, who from corresponding ignorance, or from knavery, not only sanctioned and patronized these impositions, but indulged themselves in similar reveries.

The period is not very distant when we might observe an urine castor inspect his patient's water with such a mysterious air, as could only be acquired by a habit of the most studied imposition. Enlightened people, however, are now no longer the dupes of these gross deceivers, although they have still their patrons among the credulous and the ignorant. This assertion, however, is not general in its application, as some there are, who, on other occasions, are defective neither in genius nor in talents, that yet, in matters relative to their health, seem to abjure all their knowledge and good sense, and discover an equal degree of credulity with the most ignorant peasant.

A pleasant story to this effect is recorded by Zimmerman, in his Treatise on Experience in Physic. " A man of merit," says he, " after wavering for some time in his opinion concerning a celebrated urine castor, declared at

 length

length in his favour, and from that instant praised him in all companies. A waggish student happened to say to him, soon after this, that his new favourite was one of the cleverest fellows in the world, having predicted from the urine of a cat, that there would be no more mice for a year to come. Sorely chagrined at this keen raillery, he returned home, and preparing a mixture of urine, and tincture of safron and chalk, sent it by his servant to the urine doctor, with a note, to inform him that it belonged to a person who had been long sick, and who wished for his advice. The quack," continues Zimmerman, "who has still the reputation of a very skilful physician, receives his fee and sends back his opinion in writing, describing the nature of the disease, and the method of cure. The good man now saw and acknowledged the imposition; and surely, his good sense ought to have led him to this before."

The world has always been duped with absurdities of this kind. The following story will be found more amply detailed in M. Desault's *Dissertation sur la Goutte*. To many of the readers of the Medical Journal, it may appear to exceed the bounds of belief; Desault is, however, an suthor of credit, and similar marks of folly and superstition every day meet our observation.

About the year 1698, an illiterate peasant, named *Christopher Ozanne*, became so famous for his skill in physic, that coaches regularly set off three times a week from Paris, filled with patients, who went to consult *Ozanne*, at Chandray, in Normandy, at the distance of forty leagues. The patient's names were all inserted in a book as fast as they arrived, and were admitted by turns to an audience, without any distinction of rank. *Ozanne* received them in a smoaky hut, and his prescriptions were usually of some simples. He delivered his opinion in a very blunt manner, and admitted of no expostulation or reply. This singularity of behaviour proved at length the cause of his fall. A young lady, who had been married only three months, went to consult him, and related all her complaints. The husband, who accompanied her, added every circumstance which he thought could throw light on the nature of his wife's disorder. When they had finished the history of the case, "Madam," said *Ozanne*, "Your complaints are the effects of a lying-in?" It was to no purpose that the young couple remonstrated against the absurdity of such a decision. *Ozanne* shewed them to the door, and called out for more patients.

Daily

Daily experience evinces the danger of a precipitate exhibition of the same remedy in similar diseases; and the following instances, which might be easily multiplied, shew the fatal effects of such an empirical practice. A person violently afflicted with a colic, swallowed a glass of ardent spirits, from which he experienced almost instantaneous relief, as his disease originated from flatulency. Another person, suddenly attacked with similar pains, and induced by its success in the case of his friend, had immediate recourse to the same expedient. He too swallowed a glass of brandy without hesitation, which in a few hours put a period to his existence. In this case the fatal consequence of ardent spirits would, to a person conversant with diseases, be abundantly obvious, as the disease was not really a colic but an inflammation of the intestines. A third person was seized with an excruciating colic, owing to some poisonous mushrooms, of which he had inadvertently *eaten*. The immediate application of an emetic, followed by the exhibition of some diluted vegetable acid, removed the complaint and restored him to health. A fourth had an attack of the same disease, from an encysted collection of matter pressing upon the intestines; but in this case the remedy which was exhibited with success in the former instance, proved necessarily fatal; for it burst the sac, poured out its contents into the cavity of the abdomen, and thus speedily terminated the patient's existence. Another had accidentally swallowed some arsenic, which occasioned excruciating pains of his bowels, resembling those of a common colic; large doses of sweet oil were immediately prescribed, which fortunately effected his recovery; but any, or all of the remedies employed in the above cases, would have proved completely inert and unavailing. But let me here close a narrative, which in every human mind, cannot fail to excite the most painful sensations. The subject, however, is abundantly copious, and it were easy to extend the details, by bringing forward a long catalogue of fatal but interesting accidents. But to lengthen the illustration would be transgressing the limits within which articles of this nature must necessarily be confined in the Medical Journal.

There is another consideration which merits great attention, although to such as are unacquainted with the laws of the animal economy, its force may not be immediately obvious. If we wish to make any remarkble change in the system of an organized body, we must employ such instruments as bid fair to accomplish our end without

too violent an impression upon the vital principle; in other words, without extending their action beyond a limited length. It is not indeed to be denied, that by a gradual indulgence, a person may be habituated even to the strongest stimulants; but, it is equally certain, that this habit is acquired at the expence of palsied organs, and of a broken constitution; such are the deplorable consequences of imposture and of credulity! Were it possible to enumerate all the victims of this mysterious infatuation, the swelled catalogue would, probably, prove it a more potent engine of destruction, than those desolating agents, gunpowder and the sword.

On this subject, it has been well remarked, "that in the present order of things, it is easier to cheat a man out of his life than of a shilling, and almost impossible to detect or punish the offender. Notwithstanding this, people still shut their eyes, and take every thing upon trust that is administered by any pretender to medicine, without venturing to ask him a reason for any part of his conduct. Implicit faith, every where else the object of ridicule, is still sacred here." Thus it is, that illiterate and audacious empirics sport with the lives of a credulous public, who seem obstinately bent on shutting their ears against all the dictates of reason and experience; and thus is it, that the fund of public credulity proves an inexhaustible source for all such as resolve to levy contributions on it. In vain is the spirit of quackery exorcised in one form; it rises again immediately, "*with twenty ghastly murders on its head to push us from our stools.*"

The progress which intellectual philosophy has made in the last century, is justly a subject of exultation; but as to the point in question, I know not what advantages reason has gained over the darkest periods of the middle ages. We boast that we live in enlightened times, yet do our great cities teem with hosts of Quacks and Mountebanks, who by the exhibition of their tinctures, and essences, and balsams of life, have ingratiated themselves even with the most polished classes of the citizens. Do we not daily hear of *celestial beds*? and are not our understandings insulted by a pompous display of the enchanting powers of *animal magnetism*? Are not our delicate, credulous females persuaded to wear *achromatic belts*, pervaded by an universal magnetic spirit, whose sovereign virtues can heal every disease incident to the human frame, even broken limbs and exfoliation of bones? Need I notice the many opulent votaries of *Perkinism*, who

who by a strange infatuation are persuaded to purchase a pair of metallic skewers, termed *tractors*, not worth a sixpence, at the enormous price of five guineas? or advert to the table of blood-letting, and other absurdities which still find a place in popular almanacs, to prove that the influence of Charlatanism is widely diffused; and that even our age is far from being the "age of reason," as it has been exultingly termed? We can contemplate the progress of real knowledge with pleasure; but we observe with regret, that the temple of superstition is still crouded with numberless votaries; that human reason is still the slave of the most tyrannical prejudices; and that the most successful way of exciting general attention is to affect the mysterious and the marvellous. "Medical superstition," says a celebrated physician on the continent, "is to be sought not only in the peasant's hut, but in the city, in the palace beside the toilette of the lady of the first fashion, and in the cabinet of the philosopher; more or less disguised, perhaps, but still the same in substance."

Treatises on Domestic Medicine, and other popular works of this kind, have greatly increased the mischief, without diffusing one solitary ray of information, for medicine cannot be learned from books, much less from a single volume, which professes to cure the long list of diseases "to which mortality is heir." This source of evil is probably irremediable; for popularity has charms. Men from various motives, are fond of commencing authors; and happily the freedom of the press, although teeming with mischief, still continues.

Mankind are fond of mystery; and it is more congenial with a sick man's mind to expect relief from the occult qualities of a medicine, than from its sensible virtues. Hence, in a great measure, arises the success of many boasted secret remedies, which, when compounded in an apothecary's shop, instantly lose their efficacy.

Bone setters are another set of empirics, they are real pests to society, and their ignorance can be only equalled by their daring impudence. Of their rough and improper modes of practice, our hospitals shew melancholy instances.

If consistent with rational freedom, the interference of the Legislature appears in no instances more requisite than in suppressing these noxious tribes, against which I have, in the preceding Essay, pointed my indignant, well-meant rebuke. Patent medicines in particular, are a disgrace to our Government: They impose upon the vulgar, who imagine that the wisdom of the Legislature has thought

it proper to reward the inventor by a public mark of favour. This, in my opinion, is a subject which merits the attention of our Colleges. They, as guardians of the public health, should consider it as a duty incumbent upon them, to expose the dangerous errors of these people; and even to remonstrate against the facility with which their nostrums get into general circulation, under the sanction of a Royal Patent.

But while we speak with just contempt of those men who *chouse* a credulous public with their Botanical Syrups, and their Cordial Balsams, why do we pass over in silence those who apostatize from amongst ourselves? Ought not they to have some mark of contempt, or, at least, of disapprobation attached to them? The Chinese apostate, *Chingse*, so celebrated of late for his brown and yellow lozenges, vends at an enormous price jallap and calomel, which country practitioners, on both sides of the Tweed, use, and have used, as anthelmentics before he was born; and yet he calls himself a regular practitioner.*

Edinburgh, January 4, 1806

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* "A foolish idle fellow at Florence, hearing that a physician had obtained great credit and wealth by the sale of some pills, undertook to make pills himself. He administered the same pills to all patients whatsoever; and as, by chance, they sometimes succeeded, his name became famous. A countryman called on him, and desired to know if his pills would enable him to find an ass he had lately lost. The quack bid him swallow six pills. In his way, the operation of the pills obliged him to retire into a wood, where he found his ass. The clown spread a report, that he knew a Doctor who sold pills, which would recover strayed cattle." See Spirit of French Anas, lately published, Vol. i. Article PAGGRANA.

CRITICAL

CRITICAL ANALYSIS
OF THE
RECENT PUBLICATIONS
ON THE
DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF PHYSIC, SURGERY, AND MEDICAL PHILOSOPHY.

The History and Treatment of the Diseases of the Teeth, the Gums, and the Alveolar Processes, with the Operations which they respectively require; to which are added, Observations on other Diseases of the Mouth, and on the Mode of fixing artificial Teeth. Illustrated with Copper-plates. By JOSEPH FOX, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Lecturer on the Structure and Diseases of the Teeth, at Guy's Hospital. Quarto, pp. 175, London, 1806.

THE first part or volume of this work, which contains the natural history or physiology of the human teeth, and the proper mode of treatment to prevent irregularities during the second dentition, &c. was noticed by us in a former number.* That volume, although it contained an account of the diseases which affect children during the first dentition, yet it advanced no further than the compleat formation and regularity of the second set of teeth. The present work commences with the first appearances of decay and disease, and contains the whole pathology of these organs; so that, together, they comprehend the substance of the lectures delivered by the author at Guy's Hospital.

On the appearance of the first volume, our author's opinion, respecting the vascularity and constitutional vitality of the teeth, met with some slight opposition. As he did not think it necessary to take any public notice of it at that time, he adverts to it in the Introduction to this volume.

"In my former Treatise," says he, "I endeavoured to prove that the teeth are organized in a similar manner to other bones, and that, as possessing life, they are connected with, and form an integral part of the system. Since its publication, I have had the satisfaction to find, that the same opinion is entertained by almost all the enlightened members of the surgical profession."

This point of physiology was necessary to be settled, as without it, we could not in any satisfactory manner assign a cause for the different diseases of the teeth. These diseases are similar to those which affect bones in general, and in like manner they have their origin in inflammation. The teeth differ only from bones in not possessing

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* See Medical and Physical Journal for July, 1803, p. 77.

possessing sufficient living power to effect the process of exfoliation. These different kinds of diseases affect various parts of the teeth. *Caries* is the death of any part of the crown of the tooth; but the fangs, the membrane contained within the cavity of a tooth, the enamel, the gums, and the *alveoli* or sockets, have all their distinct diseases, as well as others in common with each other, and they are moreover liable to be affected by diseases of the constitution.

In addition to these various diseafed actions, there is an earthy depofit, called tartar, which, in a greater or lefs degree, accumulates about the teeth of moft perfons; this, if fuffered to increafe to any quantity, caufes a feparation of the gums from the necks of the teeth, and a confequent abforption of the alveolar proceffes.

There are alfo many difeafes to which the *antrum maxillare* is liable; and different imperfections of the palate or roof of the mouth, arifing either from natural conformation, or the confequence of difeafe; and after thefe fubjects have been duly confidered by our author, the mode of fupplying the defect attending the lofs of teeth, by means of artificial ones, is defcribed; and an account of the method of performing the feveral operations which the difeafes of the teeth require, concludes the work.

Agreeably to this fketch, the book is divided into three parts, treating of the difeafes of the *teeth*, of the *gums*, and of the *manner of performing the operations.*

In the firft of thefe are difcuffed the following fubjects, viz. Caries, exoftofis of the fangs, necrosis affecting the teeth, fpina ventofa, removal of the enamel, wearing of the teeth by maftication, and fractures of the teeth.

In the fecond part are treated, gumboils, fcurvy in the gums, preternatural growth of the gums, difeafes of the alveolar proceffes, the tartar of the teeth, the analyfis of the tartar by Mr. Pepys; the refult of which is,

Phofphate of lime - - - -	35
Fibrina, or cartilage - - - -	9
Animal fat, or oil - - - -	3
Lofs - - - - - - - - - - -	3
	50

The effects of mercury upon the teeth. This very important part of the fubject is treated by our author at confiderable length, and cannot fail to be read with great intereft. The fame miferable confequences which arife from the improper ufe of mercury, often follow the fmall-pox, of which fome inftances are produced. The next fubject, is the *antrum maxillare* as the feat of difeafe, the imperfections in the palate; and laftly, we have a general ftatement upon the fubject of artificial teeth.

In the third part, the following operations are treated of, viz. filing the teeth, ftopping the teeth when hollow, the mode of applying

plying ligatures to the teeth, fcaling the teeth, extraction of the teeth, and luxation of the jaw.

All thefe important fubjects are treated by Mr. F. in the fame perfpicuous and accurate manner, which characterized the firft volume. And as the great object of the author appears to be that of furnifhing his profeffional brethren with a correct practical work, on a fubject which has been the conftant object of his attention from his youth, in which he has been engaged as a fuccefsful practitioner in the centre of the metropolis, and on which he has lectured with approbation for many years, he has availed himfelf of the aid of the engraver. We believe Mr. F. is the firft author who has employed thefe means of depicting the *difeafes* of the teeth. Every one knows how much plates, when accurately executed, as is the cafe here, contribute to elucidate practical fubjects. In this work, we are convinced that every reader will acknowledge, that arrangement and perfpicuity of language, combine with the aid of engravings, to remove all doubt or obfcurity on this interefting fubject. As we could not give the plates, we have declined the infertion of partial extracts, and refer our readers with great fatisfaction, to the book itfelf.

Reply to Dr. James Carmichael Smyth, containing Remarks on his Letter to Mr. Wilberforce; and a further Account of the Discovery of the Power of Mineral Acids in a State of Gas to destroy Contagion. By John Johnstone, M. D. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, &c. 8vo. pp. 275. London: 1805.

Dr. J. commences his Reply by the following concise statement of dates and facts, which appear to be admitted on all sides.

"It is not be denied," says he, "that the first public mention of the respirable mineral acid gases, as correctors of putrefaction, was made by Dr. James Johnstone, sen. late physician in Worcester, in 1758. The second mention of them was made by M. Guyton de Morveau in 1773. In 1779 Dr. James Johnstone, jun. recommended muriatic acid gas, as the surest method to prevent the spread of contagion. In 1795 Dr. James Carmichael Smyth recommended nitric acid gas, to destroy contagion. In 1802 the same Dr. James Carmichael Smyth petitioned the House of Commons to remunerate him, as the discoverer of the power of mineral acids in their gaseous state to destroy contagion. In 1803 I published my account of the discovery, and proved, I hope satisfactorily, the claim of my father to priority of discovery. In 1805 Dr. Smyth, in answer to my pamphlet, published his letter to Mr. Wilberforce."*

Dr. S. in his petition, claims the discovery both of principle and agent; Dr. J. admits, that his father employed a different agent, because he preferred the muriatic to the nitric acid, as many practitioners do at present; but contends that his father dis-

covered

covered the principle, and that the variation of the agent is of little importance.

When Dr. S. presented his petition to the House of Commons, the health of Dr. J. senior was declining so rapidly, that his son could not attend the Committee to which the petition was referred, but he wrote to Sir William Pultney, to Mr. Addington, and to Mr. Wilberforce. In consequence of the request of the last named gentleman, our author sent the testimonies of his brother and his own, which were presented to the committee. The decision took place; and when our author procured the report of the Committee in August 1782, he wrote his first pamphlet,* intitled "An Account of the Discovery of the Power of Mineral Acid Vapours to Destroy Contagion." This was published in 1803, which produced Dr. S's letter to Mr. Wilberforce in 1805, to which the present work is a reply.

"The main evidence of the date of the discovery is contained in *An Historical Dissertation concerning the Malignant Epidemcial Fever of* 1756, &c. By James Johnstone, M. D. London: printed 1758. In this Dissertation Dr. J. says, "In treating of the cure of malignant fevers, *I lay down no sanative precept which I have not, in my sphere of practice, experienced abundantly useful, and generally successful.* The cautions which I enter against known practices or remedies are also drawn from a repeated observation of their mischievous effects. Some theoretical reasoning and inferences, however unsuitable to an historical piece, I have added, with a view of rendering the nature of malignant disorders more generally understood than, perhaps, they are by many who will be under the necessity of treating them; and also, further to recommend those rules, of the utility of which *I was primarily convinced by observations,* to those who demand evidence of a different nature. Many practitioners love to know *that a peculiarity in practice is rational, as well as in fact successful,* before they make it their own. In a word, I have thrown together in a narrow compass, and with all possible plainness, several important experimental truths, which I hope may be of service in preparing many, successfully to combat these terrible disorders in situations and circumstances similar to those I have described."

"Such," says our author, "are the declarations of my father concerning his own meaning, and his own work; a work which he avows contains *peculiarity in practice* founded on his own experience, and in which he lays down *no sanative precept* unwarranted by its utility and its success in his own practice."

When he comes to treat of the *Cure,* he says, "At the beginning of the fever the spirits of nitre, frequently taken by tea-spoonfuls in mint tea or the patient's common drink, will answer every purpose, and may alone be depended upon," p. 43. "At the

* For an Account of it, see Vol. X. page 78.

the height of this fever then, larger doses of bark in substance, with elixir of vitriol and red wine, were highly useful and necessary," p. 45. Towards the decline, when there were white specks or sloughs about the glands or palate, resembling those of ulcerated sore throats, "these were treated with antiseptic detergent gargles of tinct. myrrh. spir. of vitriol, oxymel simp. and the bark in substance was given internally, with vitriol, in larger or more frequent doses than in any other condition of this disease," p. 48, 49. In the next page comes the consideration of the air, in which is included the first notice of the use of the mineral acids in a state of gas to correct contagion. "The temperature of the air in which the patient breathes must be rendered as favourable to his recovery as possible, throughout the whole course of the disease; for this reason it must be continually renewed, especially when the patient or patients are crowded in small confined places, by opening the doors and windows of the apartments, so as to admit the free passage of the air. This practice, so necessary in the small-pox, is no less so in every species of putrid fever; but it must be done so as not to repress perspiration. The necessity of changing the air in a sick room, by successsive ventilation, arises from the constant destruction of a certain property in that fluid by breathing, which renders it afterwards useless; likewise, from the atmosphere being filled with the excrementitious steams which fly off from the patient's body continually, and which putrify in a stagnant unrenewed air, and render it truly poisonous, a pabulum morbi, rather than of life. The physician will order the room to be kept sweet and clean, and stools and every thing offensive to be removed as soon as possible. If the external air is immoderately cold and wet, the room must be kept warm and dry, and the fumes of amber, myrrh, benzoin and camphire, may be diffused in the room, if sprinkled upon hot-iron. Vinegar may be sprinkled about cold, if the weather is warm; and boiled with myrrh or camphire, an antiseptic steam will arise into the air, which the patient breathes greatly to his advantage. These steams will preserve the air free from putrefaction, and will insinuate themselves by the absorbent vessels of the lungs into the blood-vessels, and will greatly assist in impeding the progress of putrefaction in the fluids. These are the most commodious, if not the most useful, methods of medicating the air the patient breathes; however, those who prefer the mineral acids may order brimstone to be burnt, or may raise the marine acid very easily, by putting a certain quantity of common salt into a vessel kept heated, upon a chafing-dish of coals; if to this a small quantity of oil of vitriol is, from time to time, added, the air will be filled with a thick white acid steam; but both the marine and sulphureous acids must be disengaged at a considerable distance from the patient, otherwise their extreme pungency will be offensive to the lungs." p. 50, 51.

Such

Such is the abstract of the evidence given by our author, on which his father's claim to priority of discovery is rested.

Dr. Smyth, in his Letter to Mr. Wilberforce, gives the following answer to this evidence.

"The preceding passage requires little comment, a fair and candid exposition of the text being all that is necessary to do away the pretended claim. Dr. Johnstone recommends the fumes of amber, benzoin, &c. with the fumes of vinegar, as the effectual means of resisting putrefaction or destroying contagion; and only mentions the mineral acids of sulphur and sea salt, upon a supposition that some persons might choose to employ them. For such persons he gives the common directions how they are to be procured, and a caution respecting the inconvenience or danger that may follow from their use; although his directions on this subject are too general and inaccurate to be of much service."

To this our author replies very fully, and, in our opinion, very satisfactorily evinces his father's claim to the discovery of the power of mineral acids in a state of gas to destroy contagion; but for the arguments and proofs, we must refer our readers to the work itself.

Dr. S. compares other parts of the historical Dissertation with the passage above quoted, and infers, that Dr. J. could not consider the mineral acids as very important, or he would not have dismissed them with so slight and solitary a notice.

This is his first negative argument, and it receives, as it requires, but a short answer from Dr. J.

The second is drawn from the Thesis on the malignant sore throat, published by Dr. James Johnstone, the eldest brother of our author, in 1773, which Dr. S. assumes to have been written by the advice and assistance of his father. In this inaugural Essay, no mention is made of the acid fumigation, and, therefore, Dr. S. concludes, that both father and son, did not think it worthy of public notice. In answering this argument, our author proves Dr. Smyth's assumption to have no foundation in truth; and that the introduction of the subject in an inaugural Thesis, would have been contrary to general usage; but that his brother afterwards, when he re-published his Essay, in English, makes particular mention of this gas as a destroyer of contagion.

It appears also, from a correspondence between Dr. J. and Dr. Priestley, in the year 1775, that both father and son were endeavouring to attract the public attention to this subject in various ways. The testimony of Mr. Crane, a respectable surgeon of Kidderminster is also adduced, in conjunction with many other Extracts of Letters and Details, to shew that Dr. J. senior, and his sons, never lost sight of the importance of acid fumigation in arresting the progress of contagion, from the first discovery in 1756, to the time of Dr. Smyth's publication in 1795. This appears, particularly, by the employment of the fumigation in Dr. Johnstone's own family whenever a contagious fever occurred in it; by

by his son Edward's recommending a trial of it to Professor Hope of Edinburgh; by his writing an exercise for his degree, in which, he mantains its efficacy and importance; and by a paper which he wrote for the Medical Society of Edinburgh on the same subject; in all which he mentions it as a discovery of his father, and dwells on the experience both of his father and brother in support of its corrective powers.

When our author has finished his reply to Dr. S. on the subject of the priority of his father's discovery, he enters into an examination of Dr. Smyth's claim, and particularly of the period, when Dr. S. had actually made up his mind respecting the superiority of the nitrous over the muriatic fumigation in a state of gas. This, as far as can be collected from circumstances, does not appear to have been earlier than 1794 or 1795. Upon the whole, we think that Dr. J. has vindicated his father's claim to priority of discovery, and his own character for accuracy and candour, against Dr. Smyth's harsh attack, with a firmness and moderation no less creditable to himself, than honourable to the cause he supports.

MEMOIRS *of the* MEDICAL SOCIETY *of* LONDON, *inſtituted in the Year* 1773. Vol. VI. 8vo. London.

" Article I.—*Sketch of the ſimilarity of ancient and modern Opinions, reſpecting the Morbus Cardiacus*; by WILLIAM FALCONER, M. D. F. R. S."

That a diſeaſe in the times of the ancient writers, ſhould exhibit ſymptoms ſimilar to thoſe obſerved in the preſent days, is not very ſurpriſing: but we really felt ſomewhat amazed, when we found a complaint, hitherto confounded with ſyncope, was the identical diſeaſe deſcribed by Huxham, under the name of *febris cuta nervoſa*; by Savage, as *Typhus nervoſa*; by Cullen, as *Typhus mitior*; and by Wall as low fever. This, Dr. Falconer conceives to be the diſeaſe called by Aretæus and Galen Νοσος καρδιακος, and by Celſus, Pliny, and Cælius Arelianus, Morbus Cardiacus; and remarks, that the mode of treatment has been varied by the ancients and the moderns in a ſimilar manner. Of the mode of treatment by the mathodic ſect, Cælius Arelianus contains moſt that we now know. It is eaſy to learn from him, that their remedies being few, the ſame were neceſſarily applied to a variety of complaints, and this more particularly, as they undertook to reduce diſeaſes to certain claſſes, which, of courſe, induced them to generaliſe the method of treatment. It is therefore no wonder, if among thoſe he propoſes, Dr. Falconer ſhould find many which are uſed by modern practitioners for typhus. Yet many, even of the remedies propoſed by Aretæus and Aurelian, we apprehend, would be of little conſequence in typhus, though we ſhall preſently ſhow that they are very uſeful in the

the diſeaſe for which thoſe writers propoſed them. To what purpoſe ſhould we expoſe to the view of a patient, under typhus, flowery lawns, meadows, and ſoftly flowing ſtreams? why attempt to refreſh him with oderiferous gales? When the ſenſes are ſo hebetated that he becomes indifferent to the moſt intereſting occurrences in his own concerns, what relief is he to feel from ſcenes which are only grateful in proportion as the mind is in a condition to enjoy them?

Whoever ſtudies attentively the writings of the ancients, will perceive that morbus cardiacus is in all, more or leſs, connected with ſyncope, as we now uſe the latter term Aretæus evidently diſtinguiſhes two ſpecies, the moſt formidable of which, is that which is the termination of καυσος. This latter diſeaſe appears to have been the ardent fever of warm climates, which at certain ſeaſons, runs through its periods with ſuch celerity as to finiſh, after a few exacebartions, and even after a ſingle one in a ſyncope, from which the patient never recovers. On this account, that cautious and elegant writer very properly teaches us, that our buſineſs is, in theſe caſes, to prevent ſyncope, or morbus cardiacus, rather than to cure it. When we apprehend it therefore from the preſence of καυσος, we ſhould bleed in the arm, unleſs ſome very ſtrong objection occurs. We may likewiſe draw blood by ſcarification and cupping, leſt we ſhould ſink our patient too faſt, always recollecting the weakneſs which is to follow the violent action from *cauſus*. When the diſeaſe (*morbus cardiacus*) is preſent, all thoſe means are to be uſed which may reſtore the ſtrength, and if poſſible ſupport life. If afterwards that languor remains, which is the frequent conſequence of ardent fever; or, if from any other cauſe, the patient ſhould be ſubject to fainting fits, attended with a low ſtate of health and dejection of ſpirits, all the means are to be uſed which are likely to reſtore his ſtrength, recruit his ſpirits, and baniſh from his mind every gloomy reflexion or unpleaſant idea.

Tho' Aurelian in this, and every other part of his writings, is more confuſed than Aretæus; yet it is eaſy to perceive in both a diſtinction between the treatment during the ſtate of ſyncope and thoſe intervals, in which attention was to be paid to prevent the return of the fit. But we are exceedingly at a loſs to know why the learned author of the paper, whilſt he is deſcribing the diſeaſe from the ancient writers, ſhould prefer that part of Aretæus which relates to the treatment, and entirely paſs over the cauſes and ſigns. This is the more remarkable, as one diviſion of the paper is on the cauſes of the diſeaſe aſſigned by the ancients. This omiſſion is ſo unaccountable, that to a leſs learned writer, we ſhould be diſpoſed to make ſeveral remarks, which we need only hint to Dr. Falconer. In the αιτιαι και σημεια that gentleman will at once recollect, that the ſame diſeaſe is called ſyncope, and deſcribed as the moſt ſerious conſequence of the ardent fever. In addition to the ſymptoms he has enumerated in the paper, he will find ſeveral others; particularly, that the patient, during the *cauſus*, breathed fire, but that in the ſyncope ſtage his breathing is cold; when arrived

rived at this ftate, it is unneceffary to add, that the cafe muft prove fatal. It is therefore no wonder if Aretæus confiders bleeding as fatal in fyncope, though he advifes it warmly in the early ftage of *caufus*, in order to prevent the future dangerous termination. He marks the progrefs of the two ftages with his ufual warmth of expreffion, obferving, that the heat is converted into cold, and drynefs into a fhower [of perfpiration]. The mind too, he obferves, not only recovers itfelf from the delirium, which is a fymptom of *caufus*, but is in the syncope more acute than in health. This refers to that compofure which all the phyficians of the fouth defcribe, as fo remarkable in the laft ftage of ardent fever, and which anciently gave rife to the fuperftitious notion. that dying men could prophecy. It may even be fuppofed that the word fyncope was either the caufe or the confequence of this error, *συνκοπη παρα το συνκοπτειν a concidendo utpote quæ nexus animæ et corporis fubito, abfcindat*, as the learned Gregorius Magnus, and after him Petit remarks. By the fudden failure of all the corporeal powers, whilft the mind retained its energy, it was conceived that the feparation between foul and body had already taken place, which enabled the patient to converfe with the dead, and to learn many particulars, which he ftill retained the power of communicating in the ordinary way.

Such is Aretæus's account of fyncope, or *morbus cardiacus*. Aurelian is more confufed, but in every part of his defcription refers to fainting fits. Even the quotations produced by the learned author of the paper, concerning the caufes to which Aurelian and Galen imputed the difeafe, are all fuch as we fhould expect to produce fyncope,

Of Pliny's account of this or any other difeafe we know but little. He was ignorant of what medical knowledge was current, even in his own days, and only picked up remedies and receipts wherever he could procure them. However, by his propofing the fame remedy for lethargy and morbus cardiacus, there is reafon to believe he had fome view to fainting, or a fudden incapacity of mufcular exertion. Galen's account does not materially differ.

It is evident that Celfus knew but little of the *καυσος* of the Greek Afiatics. However, his arrangement places morbus cardiacus among thofe difeafes, qui huic (febrium curationi) fuperveniunt. His whole defcription leads to that kind of fainting, in which the fenfes are not alienated; for whenever a perfon who faints, is in a condition to exprefs his feelings, he never fhows any abfence of mind. The remedies propofed by this accurate writer are, firft to relieve the immediate fymptoms, and as much as poffible to reprefs the fweating, which were conceived to add much to the general weaknefs. For the firft purpofe, the fame remedies were ufed as obtain to the prefent day, and muft for ever obtain. The patient, whilft he fainted, was to have frefh air. He was alfo to be rubbed; a remedy highly important, though at prefent too often neglected. In order to reftore the ftrength, and prevent a return of fuch faintings, the patient is directed to be well and carefully fed; and

every other means were to be uſed, which might reſtore his ſtrength.

We have dwelt longer on this article than its importance entitle it to, becauſe we conceive it particularly the buſineſs of a Reviewer to examine carefully the authorities which are quoted; and in doing this, he can ſcarcely fail to impart ſome of his enquiries to his readers. Beſides which, we conceive it a juſtice we owe Dr. Falconer, thus to explain our reaſons for differing from him, as from the nature of our work, he will have an opportunity of explaining himſelf further. In ſaying this, we are not courting a controverſy, which muſt prove unprofitable to our readers, and irkſome to ourſelves; but only apologiſing for the length of our article.

" Article 2.—*A Caſe of Angina Pectoris, with a Diſſection.* By Samuel Black, M. D. of Newry, Ireland."

Though this diſeaſe is by no means uncommon, the above caſe is extremely well worth recording, on account of the great relief the patient found from iſſues, and particularly from his loſing all thoſe advantages, by drying up his iſſues, which, though they were afterwards opened, did not produce the ſame good effects. The ſuſpending a diſeaſed action, by promoting a new and diſtant one, is always uncertain. But if we have the good fortune to ſucceed, it is ſtill more doubtful, whether our new action will become habitually ſufficient to prevent the return of the old. If ever we find ſuch a conſequence, we ſhould not fail to avail ourſelves of it. We ought in juſtice to add, that the *patient only* appears to have been anſwerable for the conſequence of drying up the iſſues.

" Article 3.—*Caſe of Hydrocephalus Internus, terminating ſucceſsfully.* By Edmond Pitts Gapper, Surgeon at Ewell, Surry."

This is a very valuable caſe, but is like too many others, not related with ſufficient minuteneſs. By the general hiſtory we ſhould ſuſpect that the diſeaſe originated in *coup de ſoleil,* which at firſt produced extravaſation of lymph from increaſed action, and that this increaſed action afterwards became habitual, returning at uncertain and ſhortened intervals. The caſe, however, being as we before remarked, related in too few words, we ſhall ſubmit them to the reader, leaving him to form his own judgement.

" The ſubject of this caſe, is a girl of twelve years of age, whom I was deſired to viſit, ſome time in January laſt. She was ſeized in the fields, while employed in picking ſtones, with univerſal pain, heavineſs in her head, and dimneſs of ſight. This laſt ſymptom I was not informed of at the time, and could get no other account from her, than that "ſhe was ill all over." At this time there was not the leaſt heat on her ſkin, or any ſymptom of fever; the pulſe was ſcarce perceptible, and ſhe appeared ſtupid and inſenſible; ſome gently opening medicines were ordered, and I ſaw her again in a few days, my aſſiſtant having viſited her in the interval. I then found her complaining of ſickneſs, and pain in her head, though not in a ſufficient degree to excite in me an idea of there being any

thing

thing particularly extraordinary in the caſe. An emetic was adminiſtered, a bliſter applied to the nape of the neck, and the doſes of opening medicines increaſed, as coſtiveneſs was much complained of. She went on in this manner near a week, when all the ſymptoms began to increaſe; the pain in her head became ſo acute, as to produce at times, actions of violence, which rendered confinement neceſſary, and the intervals were marked by ſtupidity; ſhe was totally unable to bear an erect poſture, and her diſtreſs was very great and affecting. Theſe circumſtances led to a more particular examination. I found the pupil of the eye dilated to its utmoſt extent, and abſolutely immoveable, the pulſe ſmall and extremely quick, with a dry hot ſkin, a conſiderable degree of thirſt, though the tongue was but ſlightly furred. A ſtupor, conſtant watchfulneſs, a ſenſe of great weight in the head, ſickneſs, obſtinate coſtiveneſs, and ſmall evacuations of urine, were prominent ſymptoms, and which led me to infer, that the diſeaſe in queſtion could be no other than Hydrocephalus Internus."

The author's treatment was very judicious, as the event proved. Mercurial frictions produced ſalivations, and a diſcharge from the noſe. By this courſe the returns of inflammation ſeem to have been prevented, but delirium ſtill remained, probably, becauſe all the extravaſated fluid was not abſorbed. Nothing could be better calculated to complete the cure, than Mr. Gapper's plan of bliſters to the head, and occaſional vomits: with theſe he ſucceeded.

"Article 4. — *Caſe of a Boy who became of a blue Colour ſome Months after Birth.* By EDWARD THOMAS, M. D. &c."

This is an intereſting caſe, leading indeed to no practical inferences, but containing a very good caution againſt haſty prognoſis, and particularly againſt undervaluing the accounts of extra-profeſſional relators.

"Article 5. — *A Caſe of obſtinate Hepatic Diſeaſe.* By J. C. LETTSOM, M. D. &c."

This caſe is curious in many reſpects, but the *denouement*, to ſay the leaſt of it, is not miraculous. The patient, being a medical man, had of courſe, his choice of phyſicians without expence, and could judge of the effects their remedies might produce. After uſing them all without benefit, he was attacked with acute ſymptoms, threatening fatal conſequences, but ending in a complete and apparently permanent cure of his chronic complaints.

"Article 6. — *Caſe of a remarkable and ſucceſsful Termination of Scrotal Hernia.* By JAMES LEE, Surgeon, Spaniſh Town, Jamaica."

This is another caſe relieved by the ſame phyſician as the laſt. The hiſtory, however, is not leſs inſtructing, and ſuch hiſtories do the relators particular credit, not only as they derive no very ſplendid reputation from them, but becauſe they evince gratitude to a benefactor, to whom the patient and phyſician are often ſo much indebted. During the operation the parts were found gangrenous, ſo that an artificial anus became neceſſary. About a year afterwards

afterwards the patient was ſeized with acute pain, attended with a diminution of the orifice from adheſion, ending in expulſion of the fæces per anum, and a complete cicatrization of the wound.

" Article 7. — *A Caſe of Croup ſucceſsfully treated by Emetics.* By JOHN SMITH, Surgeon, C. M. S. and Member of the Medical Society of Philadelphia."

" Article 8.—*Caſe of Opiſthotonos ſucceſsfully treated.* By the ſame."

The author in this caſe applied a cauſtic to a ſore on the leg, which had ſcabbed, and from which he conceived the diſeaſe aroſe. To this, with the free uſe of ſal. chalybis and flor. zinci, he imputes the cure.

" Article 9. — *On the Origin of the Cow-Pox.* By JOSEPH HEAD MARSHALL, M. D."

We ſhall tranſcribe the whole of this paper, becauſe we conceive the fact recorded in it cannot receive too great publicity.

" The very extraordinary aſſertion brought forward by Dr. Jenner, in his firſt publication on the cow-pox, namely, that that diſeaſe originates in the horſe, and not in the cow, has occaſioned much controverſy. The following ſimple detail of a fact, that very lately came under my own obſervation, will, I think, tend greatly to elucidate it.

" Being called to viſit a young woman, who is a dairy maid at a farmer's, I found her in bed, complaining of a pain in her back, laſſitude, and thirſt. Her face was fluſhed, and her tongue foul. Upon requeſting her to give me her arm, I diſcovered upon the hand four or five large puſtules, which, from my knowledge of the diſeaſe, I immediately aſcertained to be cow-pox. On the back of the hand there had evidently been a long ſcratch, on a part of which appeared the primary puſtule; the others were very near it.

" Upon making a ſtrict enquiry, I found one of the cows had this diſeaſe, and that in ſeveral of the others, it was alſo advancing. On farther enquiry, I alſo found, that the farmer had a horſe with ſore heels in the ſtable, which his ſon always attended, who did not uſually milk the cows; but that one morning, this cow being troubleſome and reſtive, he had, to relieve the dairy-maid, milked her himſelf.

" From this plain and ſimple ſtate of facts, the origin of the diſeaſe became, in this inſtance, very apparent, as it could be clearly traced from the horſe to that individul cow which the young man milked, and through this medium to the dairy-maid, and thence to the reſt of the herd."

" Article 10. — *Caſe of Frambœſia Guineaenſis, or Yaws.* By JOSEPH ADAMS, M. D. &c. of the Island of Madeira."

It is some ſatisfaction to obſerve a coincidence in the accounts of medical men, where we cannot ſuſpect any communication between them. This paper, if it was not read before the Society, muſt

must have been written prior to the publication of Dr. Winterbottom's Account of African Diseases; yet there is no probability that the Doctor could have seen it. However, in the most important part of this disease, as to its symptoms, the two accounts agree. Dr. Adams's, it will be supposed, is the most minute; as his attention to all the discriminating symptoms of morbid poisons is well known. The case being long, and not admitting any curtailment, we shall only transcribe some of the author's remarks, by which it will appear that Frambœsia, though placed by Cullen under the order *impetigines*, should, according to his system, have been arranged with the exanthemata. This is no imputation against that celebrated nosologist, because he himself confesses *de elephantiasi, lepra, frambœsia, et trychomate utpote a me nunquam visis amplius statuere non ausus sum.* It further appears by the account before us, that tho' frambœsia, by passing through its stages and arriving at a natural cure, resembles variola and the other exanthemata, yet in its slow progress it must often assume the form of impetigines.

"Having thus described the character of the disease, I shall offer a history of it, founded on observation, and leading to practice.

"1st. The violence of the disease must be in proportion to the susceptibility of the constitution for it.

"2d. When the susceptibility is great, it is likely to be proportionably permanent; and as long as it continues, the matter of each pustule will infect those parts it comes in contact with. Hence the spreading of the same individual pustule or scab.

"3d. That nothing will destroy the susceptibility of a part, or the whole constitution, but its full action. Hence,

"4thly. Though the action may be suspended for a time, by exciting a different action, yet, the susceptibility still remaining, the action will return as soon as that which superseded it ceases.

"To illustrate this theory the better, I shall contrast yaws with the only two morbid poisons to which it bears any analogy, without exactly resembling either.

"The venereal is a poison of which the constitution is for ever susceptible, and which it has no power of curing in itself: consequently, the matter from every ulcer affects the contiguous parts, and the disease is kept up for ever, or till a more powerful stimulus is applied; after which, on a fresh application of the infection, the constitution is found as susceptible as before.

"The small-pox is a poison of which the constitution is no longer susceptible, after having gone through a certain fever and eruption, occasioned by the application of its poison. Consequently, from this time, the contiguous parts being insensible to the variolous irritation, all the pustules heal without spreading, and the constitution is found to have lost its susceptibility on a fresh exposure to the infection.

"Of yaws, on the contrary, the constitution remains susceptible after the eruption and fever (if any happen to attend it) are completed.

pleted. Hence, as in the venereal, the pus affects the contiguous parts. But this susceptibility only continues for a time, uncertain according to the difference of constitution, or state of it at the time. When the susceptibility ceases, the parts heal as in the small-pox, though more slowly, from the slow progress of all the other actions. When healed, the constitution has for ever lost its susceptibility for the disease.

" In one point they all agree, namely, that they may be suspended for a time by another more powerful stimulus, but will show themselves as soon as the effect of that stimulus ceases. When it happens that the constitution is infected by absorption from a local venereal ulcer, the consequent disease will never show itself while the mercurial irritation which cured the chancre continues; but when that irritation ceases, the disease will appear in the skin, fauces, or bones.

" In the small-pox, inoculation has taught us, that, after the infection is received by a constitution susceptible of its impression, the disease may be for a time superseded by some other irritation, most commonly an erysipelatous fever, or the measles. As soon, however, as these cease, the small-pox resumes its action, and continues its course.

" In yaws, the progress of which is particularly slow, it appears that, even after the disease has proceeded to suppuration, it may be superseded for a time by mercury. But if that remedy has been applied before the full action of the disease, namely, scabbing, has taken place, whenever the mercurial irritation ceases, the yaws resume their action, which continues as long as the constitutional susceptibility remains.

" To conclude, the constitution is always susceptible of the venereal poison; so that the disease will spread till superseded by a more violent irritation; and return on a fresh application of the poison. The small-pox will cure itself as soon as the suppurative fever is over; and with the disease, the susceptibility for it is extinguished for ever.

" In yaws the suppuration, whether attended with fever or not, does not immediately relieve the constitution from its susceptibility to the disease: nor is there any remedy yet known that will cure it. But this susceptibility ceases by degrees, after which the parts heal, and the susceptibility never returns.

" Though only the venereal is absolutely incurable, excepting by a remedy, yet all three may be arrested, at certain stages, without being cured.

" That such is the nature of yaws, appears from every authority I have been able to find, and from my own observation. The anonymous and modest author of a paper in the Edinburgh Medical Essays, Dr. Hillary, and Sauvage, all agree, that if mercury is given before all the yaws are scabbed over, the best that can happen is a return of the disease when the mercurial irritation ceases; but all of them, as well as Mr. Hunter, mention very calamitous events that have sometimes followed the early exhibition

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of mercury. The two first mentioned writers (the only two practical ones) never ſeem to have left the diſeaſe to its natural cure, and differ much in their opinion of ſuch a practice. Hillary, with his uſual haſtineſs, conceives it would always kill the patient; but the other has the modeſty to believe it would probably get well of itſelf, though he never had the courage to try. Both agree that, after ſalivation, ſome of the yaws will obſtinately reſiſt, and that it will be neceſſary to rub them with cauſtic to the bottom."

The article concludes with an enquiry, whether this diſeaſe is the ſame as the leproſy of the Jews? It appears, by a variety of arguments, that no other diſeaſe has ever been deſcribed, or is now known, which reſembles, in all its forms, the leproſy deſcribed in Leviticus. Dr. A. conceives the doubts on the ſubject have ariſen from confounding this leproſy with another which afterwards occurs in holy writ, and which being evidently incurable either by the common powers of the conſtitution, or any known remedy, became a proper object of the diſplay of the miraculous power.— Such was the leproſy of Naaman the Aſſyrian, of king Uzziah, and ſeveral others. Had this leproſy been the ſame for which a temporary retirement was required, after which the ſubject re-admitted into the congregation, it would not have been worthy of a miracle either in its cure or infliction.

Article 11.—*Caſe of Extra Uterine Fœtus*; by A. FOTHERGILL, M. D. F. R. S. &c.

This caſe terminated as unhappily as many of the ſame kind. The hiſtory is worth recording, but can afford no new practical hints under ſimilar events. The author has, however, added ſome remarks, which may be peruſed with advantage on the propriety of extracting ſuch fœtuſes by an inciſion through the parietes of the abdomen. If we can depend on all the ſucceſsful hiſtories related by the French ſurgeons, we can only wiſh that our own had more courage and equal ſucceſs: for if theſe inciſions into the abdomen can be made with ſafety, it would be very deſireable to attempt them in caſes of cyſtic dropſies, whether from the ovaria or hydatids.

Article 12.—*Caſe of Inverted Uterus after Parturition.* By THEOPHILUS DYSON, Surgeon, F. M. S.

In this caſe Mr. Dyſon was ſucceſsful in replacing the uterus in its natural form, after which no further ill conſequences occurred. We are informed his patient has ſince been delivered of another child, the uterus retaining its natural ſituation.

Article 13.—*An Account of an extraordinary Maſs of Diſeaſe formed in the left Cavity of the Thorax.* By J. CARDEN, Surgeon to the Worceſter Infirmary.

This is a very intereſting caſe, well related, and followed by very judicious remarks.

Article 14.—*Hiſtory and Diſſection of a Caſe of Inteſtinal Ulceration, with Remarks.* By Henry Field, Sec. M. S.

This caſe ſhews, like many others, the imperfect knowledge we can form of inteſtinal diſeaſes, by the ſymptoms and deſcription of the patient. The hiſtory and diſſection are well related, and the remarks by the author judicious.

Article 15.—*Hiſtory of a peculiar morbid Appearance in the Heart.* By James Hume Spry, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, &c. F. M. S.

This history is certainly curious, and well worth recording; we are only ſurprized that the committee of papers ſhould not have pruned off ſome of the ſentences. In this, our profeſſional readers will agree with us, unleſs they have ſo far forgotten their early education as to be ignorant of the fœtal circulation, and of the properties acquired by the blood during its circulation through the lungs. We admit it is well worth recording, that the foramen ovale and canalis arterioſus, not only remained pervious, but ſeemed to increaſe like the other parts of the body as long as the ſubject lived, which was to the age of ſeventeen. The ſymptoms were ſuch as might be expected, laborious reſpiration, incapacity of exertion, and a blue colour occaſionally, amounting in the extremities almoſt to black.

The other papers of this volume must be deferred to a future Number.

An Account of the Practice of one of the Physicians of the Westminster General Dispensary, and of the Western Dispensary; from February 20 to March 20, 1806.

Acute Diseases.

Continued Fever	5
Catarrhal Fever	3
Epistaxis	1
Peripneumony	2
Pleurisy	2
Acute Rheumatism	1
Ophthalmia	1
Hepatitis	1

Chronic Diseases.

Pulmonary Consumption	3
Scrophula	3
Hectica Senilis	1
Cough and Dyspnœa	18
Pleurodynia	2
Gastrodynia	3
Scirrhus Liver	1
Jaundice	2
Vomiting	3
Hæmorrhoids	1
Hæmatemesis	1
Asthenia	6
Dyspepsia	3
Pyrosis	1
Diarrhœa	2
Dysuria	2
Cephalalgia et Vertigo	3
Epilepsy	1
Paralysis	1
Ascites	2
Anasarca	3

Inflammation

Inflammation of the Leg - 2	Menorrhagia - - - 2
Lumbago - - - - - - 2	Dysmenorrhœa - - - 1
Hernia - - - - - - 1	Leucorrhœa - - - - 4
CUTANEOUS DISEASES.	Abortion - - - - - 1
Herpes - - - - - - 1	Hooping Cough - - 1
Prurigo - - - - - - 1	Measles - - - - - 1
Psora - - - - - - - 2	Fever - - - - - - 1
Syphilitic Eruption - 1	Worms - - - - - - 2
DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.	Hydrocephalus - - - 1
Amenorrhœa - - - 3	

I have been induced to write this account of diseases at the request of a truly respectable and eminent physician, who has stated, that "in order to have a more complete and accurate account of the prevailing diseases, it would be necessary that the practitioners who superintend the numerous medical institutions in this metropolis, should publish monthly, or quarterly, the result of their experience, since their observations must be made among the class of people most exposed to the vicissitudes of the season, and to other causes of disease."

With this view I propose to give a monthly statement of the diseases which fall under my notice, and offer such practical observations as may occur, together with any information furnished by my medical friends.

The winter has been particularly mild, and as far as my own experience goes, favourable to health, notwithstanding a remarkable degree of humidity in the atmosphere.

The month of February was unusually warm; the prevailing wind, south-east. During the greatest part of the present month, the wind has been north-east, and for some days the weather was extremely cold, with a heavy fall of snow, and much rain.

The acute diseases, usually attendant on this season, have assumed a mild character, and have generally had a favourable termination. The hooping cough has been prevalent in some families and schools, at the west end of the town; and a few cases of measles and scarlet fever have occurred. The symptoms of continued fever classed among the acute diseases of this Report, were very slight, and did not seem to originate from contagion. The cases were but of short duration, and all terminated favourably.

The case of hæmatemesis occurred in a woman about forty years of age, of a costive habit. Whilst in a state of debility and heat from cooking, she was exposed to the influence

influence of cold, and soon after complained of pain, and a sense of weight in the stomach, with general uneasiness; this was succeeded by vomiting of blood in considerable quantity, and continued at intervals till she received relief from medicine. The abdomen was hard and rather full; she had little appetite, and looked and felt very faint. The method of treatment recommended in Dr. Hamilton's recent publication on this subject seemed suitable for the present case. She accordingly took a brisk purgative every other morning, and in the intervening day small doses of vitriolated magnesia in infusion of gentian. The vomiting ceased entirely after the second cathartic, and her recovery was soon effected.

The symptoms of hydrocephalus, on its first appearance, and those of worms in the intestinal canal, are sometimes so similar as to render it difficult to distinguish the two affections from each other; in this early stage, however, it is highly gratifying and useful to know that the remedy which will often remove the latter complaint, is also beneficial, and sometimes even effectual in the former. A child five years of age, from being active and hearty, began to droop, to toss her head about, and let her chin drop on the breast; her appetite failed; she complained of pain in the fore-part of the head and in the extremities; was sometimes fretful; at other times delirious, and had disturbed sleep, often interrupted by starting and crying out. When I saw her, these symptoms had been observed about three weeks. The pupils of the eyes were much dilated, and she seemed to take little notice of surrounding objects.

The medicine prescribed was Pulv. e. scammon. cum calomel, in doses of twelve grains, every other morning.

After the three first doses, a number of ascarides was passed, with a copious and offensive discharge, and before the end of a fortnight she was restored to perfect health.

SAMUEL FOTHERGILL.

Southampton Street, Strand, March 21, 1806.

Statement of the Number of Patients, and the Diseases under which they laboured, admitted under the Care of the Physicians and Surgeons of the Liverpool General Dispensary in the Year 1805.

Febres Continuæ - -	795	Ophthalmia - - -	415
——— Intermittentes	85	Gangræna et Sphacelus	10
Inflammatio - - -	91	Cephalalgia et Vertigo	145

Cynanche

Cynanche Tonsillaris	200
——— Trachealis	15
——— Maligna	8
Scarlatina	80
——— Anginosa	68
Rubeola	19
Variola	141
Varricella	12
Vaccinatio	822
•Erysipelas	57
• Urticaria	9
Rheumatismus	656
Pneumonia	67
Gastritis	4
Enteritis	6
Hepatitis	4
Nephritis	22
Peritonitis	3
Aphtha	110
Epistaxis	35
Hæmoptysis	76
Hæmatemesis	20
Phthisis	255
Hæmorrhois	70
Menorrhagia	97
Leucorrhœa	63
Blenorrhœa	14
Hæmaturia	18
Abortio	53
Catarrhus	94
Dysenteria	173
Cholera et Diarrhœa	388
Apoplexia	12
Paralysis	400
Hemiplegia	16
Hemicrania	26
Paraplegia	5
Syncope	5
Dyspepsia	328
Chlorosis	8
Vomitus	27
Hypochondriasis	21
Amenorrhœa	200
Spasmi	16
Convulsio	71
Tetanus	10

Chorea Sancti Viti	20
Epilepsia	57
Palpitatio	65
Asthma	174
Tussis et Dyspnœa	692
Tussis Convulsiva	125
Colica	100
——— Pictonum	20
Diabetes	20
Hysteria	151
Melancholia	2
Insania	8
Debilitas	226
Marasmus	6
Tabes Mesenterica	4
Hydrops et Anasarca	233
Ascites	40
Hydrocephalus	9
Congesto Capitis	10
Hydrothorax	10
Hydrocele	6
Rachitis	18
Scrofula	145
Syphilis et Gonorrhœa	799
Scorbutus	21
Icterus	40
Amaurosis	16
Dysecœa	4
Eneuresis	24
Obstipatio	280
Nephralgia	60
Aneurismus	3
Schirrus et Cancer	28
Polypus Nasi	12
Hernia	85
——— Strangulata	5
Prolapsus Uteri	55
——— Ani	38
Luxatio et Distentio	85
Amputatio	9
Vulnus, Contusio et Fractura	453
Abscessus, Ulcus et Testio	378
Tumor et Induratio	138
Curvatura Spinæ	9

Fistula

Fistula in Ano	4	Calculus Vesicæ	2
Herpes	30	Vermes	246
Tinea Capitis	55	Dentitio	18
Psora	835		
Caries	10		12,237
Hydrarthus	10		

MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL INTELLIGENCE.

A letter from Ragusa, inserted in the Vienna Court Gazette, says, "The vaccine inoculation has at length triumphed here through the zeal and the efforts of the indefatigable Dr. Stulli, who, at the repeated invitations of Dr. Carro of Vienna, has happily surmounted all the obstacles which prejudice and carelessness threw in his way. The Catechism written by Dr. Carro, being translated into the Illyrian language, and circulated in the town and adjacent country, induced a great number of the inhabitants to adopt inoculation. The matter transmitted from Vienna produced the best effect. In a few days Dr. Stulli inoculated 100 children, which is a considerable number for this country, in which of late years, and even in 1804, more than 300 children died of the natural small-pox.

Dr. Richter has lately discovered a metal which resembles, in many respects, nickel, and which he calls Niccolanum. In comparing this substance with cobalt and nickel, we are told it resembles, 1. by its property of surcharging itself with oxygen at the expence of the nitric acid, and thus forming a body which resembles the black oxyd of manganese, with respect to its solubility in the acids; 2. by its property of not being reducible without the intervention of a combustible body. It differs from cobalt, 1. by the blackish green colour of its solutions, even when they are neutralized; 2. by the colour of its carbonate; that of cobalt is of a beautiful purple, but that of niccolanum is of a blueish green, inclining to a pale grey; 3. by the colour of its oxyd precipitated without carbonic acid; that of cobalt is of a deep blue, and changes, even during washing, into a blackish brown, but the oxyd of niccolanum is of a bluish green. Niccolanum resembles nickel, 1. by its strong magnetic quality; 2. by its malleability; 3. by the deep green colour of its solutions; 4. by the loss of this colour when its neutral combinations are deprived of water; 5. by the colour of its acid solution with an excess of ammoniac. It differs from nickel, 1. because it cannot be reduced without the intervention of a combustible body; 2. because nitric acid attacks and oxydates it more easily; 3. by the colour of its combinations, and by the colour of its precipitates.

M. Che-

M. Chevalier, of Berlin, has invented a new varnish applicable to wood, plaster, and other substances, and which resists the action of water, air, and alkaline leys. It is thought that wood, employed for the construction of ships or houses, or for piles sunk in water or wet earth, coated over with this varnish, will endure three times as long, and run no risk of rotting. Two pounds and a half of the varnish are sufficient for a surface of a hundred square feet, and is sold at eighty-two Prussian dollars the Cwt.

Mr. Hawker, of Dudbridge, Gloucestershire, has lately exhibited, at Sir Joseph Banks's, complete drawings, and several of the bones of a large fossile animal, similar to the crocodile, found in a solid stratum of lime-stone twenty feet thick. It was imbedded fifteen feet below the surface of the stratum. The skeleton measures 10½ feet in length, and all the parts are wonderfully perfect. The jaws contained the teeth in high preservation, and still covered with enamel. One of them, which was broken, had so exactly the fracture of what is called petrified wood, as to furnish a strong ground for suspicion that many fossils, generally held to be of vegetable, are of animal origin. In the same stratum of lime-stone are found many cornua ammonis, muscles, and other shells.

In February a letter was read at a meeting of the Royal Society, from Mr. Griffiths to the President, containing a brief account of a species of worm-shell, found by him in a bank of clay, on the coast of Sumatra, after the shock of an earthquake. Considerable numbers of the same species are found in the surrounding seas, in water from one to six fathoms deep; they vary in length from three to five feet, and in diameter from three to nine inches. One of the specimens procured by Mr. Griffiths, measures above five feet, is taper, has two tentaculi, and in other respects, is somewhat different from the figure given by Rhumphius. Not one of the shells could be procured perfect in itself; but their true figure may be correctly conceived from the different broken specimens. The body of the fish consisted of a gelatinous mass. The outside of the shell was white, the inside yellow, and its fracture strongly resembled stalactite.

Some experiments have lately been made at Amiens, to ascertain the nature of the foul air in oil cisterns; and it has been found to consist of azotic gas, oxygenated gas, and carbonic acid gas, in the proportions of 86, 8 and 6.

A work upon the cause and treatment of the gout, by the late Dr. Hamilton, of Lynn, Author of Observations on Scrophulous Affections, Marsh Remittent Fever, &c. is in the press. This work contains much new matter upon the nature and origin of that versatile disease, the gout, and a successful mode of treating it, experienced in the author's own person.

Mr.

Mr. Creaser, Surgeon of Bath, has nearly ready for publication, some extensive Reports on the Medical Application of Galvanism.

Mr. Blair has a work in the press, nearly ready for publication, in which he makes the persons who affect to rail at the Cow-pox refute themselves, by quoting their own words in a dialogue.

Mr. Gunning, Surgeon to St. George's Hospital, proposes to give, in October next, at his house in Clifford Street, A Course of Lectures on the Principles and Operations of Surgery, illustrated by a Reference to the Cases which occur at St. George's Hospital. For farther particulars, apply to Mr. Gunning, No. 1, Clifford Street, Bond Street.

Mr. Thelwall has opened a Seminary, No. 40, Bedford Place, Russell Square, for the cultivation of the Science and Practice of Elocution, and the Cure of Impediments of Speech; and is delivering a Course of Lectures on the Elementary Principles of his Art. The Lectures are illustrated by graphic and mechanical demonstrations of the essential Propositions; and are occasionally relieved by popular readings and recitations, and specimens of spontaneous oratory. Mr. T. also proposes to receive into his house a limitted number of pupils who have impediments of utterance, of whatever description, the deaf alone excepted; and to give lessons, at stated hours, to individuals and to select classes, to whom domestication might not be convenient; and who may either labour under the like imperfections, or be desirous of improvement in the accomplishments of reading and recitation, conversational fluency, public oratory, and the principles of criticism and composition.

LIST OF NEW MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Anatomy and Diseases of the Human Ear; by J. C. Saunders; with Plates by Heath; magnificent folio, 25s. in boards.

A Manual of Inoculation, for the Use of the Faculty and private Families; pointing out the most approved Method of Inoculating and conducting Patients through the Small-pox; extracted from the Writings of Dimsdale, Sutton, and other eminent Practitioners; by G. Lipscomb, Surgeon, 1s.

A Practical Treatise on various Diseases of the Abdominal Viscera; by C. R. Pemberton, M. D. F. R. S.; 8vo. 7s. boards.

Motherby's, or the New London Medical Dictionary, 4to. Part I. a new edition, to be compleated in Four Parts, 24s. boards.

An Essay on the Diseases incident to India Seamen and Lascars in long Voyages, by W. Hunter; folio, 15s.

A Treatise on Epilepsy, by H. Fraizer, M. D. 8vo. 2s. 6d.

A New System of Family Medicine, by W. Keighley, M. D. 8vo. 6s.

The Modern Practice of Physic, by E. G. Clarke, M. D. 8vo. 9s.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. Young's Letter to Dr. Adams, on the Hydatid Existence of Cancer, will appear in our next Number.

Communications are also received from Dr. James Clarke, Dr. Walker, and Mr. Robertson.